

## VIA RAIL

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a petition signed by 266 residents of Thunder Bay who are petitioning Parliament with regard to the future of rail passenger services in this country. They call upon Parliament to maintain VIA Rail, Canada's present national network, to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment and to give VIA Rail a sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate for passenger service.

## FREEDOM OF CHOICE

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Finally, Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by 209 residents of Thunder Bay, men and women, who point out that no new restrictive abortion law is needed, that a new abortion law will not stop ex-boyfriends from seeking injunctions under civil law.

They point out that the provinces continue to receive transfer payments to provide necessary health services but do not provide universal access to abortion, thereby contravening the Canada Health Act. They call upon Parliament to reject any proposed restrictive abortion law and to enforce the Canada Health Act by withholding transfer payments to provinces that do not provide universal access to abortion services.

## PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to present 10 petitions representing signatures from various communities within my riding including Port Hope, Campbellford and Cobourg. These people wish this government to repeal its proposed goods and services tax.

The people in my riding represent farmers and small businessmen for the most part, people whose businesses operate on a very low margin of profit. They feel that the proposed goods and services tax will bankrupt them and they ask the government to repeal the proposed goods and services tax.

**Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today with two petitions brought forward from people in my riding, Mission—Coquitlam, as well as people from Vancouver, Burnaby, Cranbrook, Delta, North Vancouver and a petition from Thunder Bay, Ontario. The petitioners are calling on the government to abandon its ill-conceived goods and services tax. They

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are outraged at a tax that would tax haircuts, diapers, coffins and home heating fuels. I table this petition in compliance with Standing Order 36.

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by over 100 people, objecting to the undue burden that will be placed on Canadians by the proposed goods and services tax and calling upon Parliament to reject this tax.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition signed by 485 of my constituents. This petition has been duly signed and authorized by the Clerk. It is from an area in Bonavista—Trinity—Conception which we can call the Isthmus area. This is the area that joins the Avalon Peninsula to the mainland of Newfoundland. It is kind of caught in the sense of identification. It does not really identify with the urban areas of St. John's, and it is a bit different from the rest of the mainland of Newfoundland. These residents sometimes feel that they are neglected.

Unemployment is probably the highest in this area of Newfoundland than in any other place. They are concerned about Bill C-21 which we will be discussing today. They are concerned that unemployment insurance is vital to their well-being. They are concerned that the government is taking away all their contributions, going to make qualifying time more difficult and going to cut down part of the period in which they will receive benefits.

They call on the government to reject these cuts in unemployment insurance and to propose a more meaningful reform, concentrate on the labour force development strategy that will keep them in mind and combine a better employment policy with an effective, regional development policy.

• (1120 )

## CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

**Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke):** Mr. Speaker, I rise at the request of the member for Moose Jaw—Lake Centre to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36. The petition is signed by some 33 residents of the province of Saskatchewan, particularly of the communities of Trossachs, Weyburn, Assiniboia, Zenon Park and Burstall.