

Routine Proceedings

The petitioners are residents of the city of Thunder Bay, the area I represent, who strongly oppose and urge this government to reconsider its position with respect to the action they intend to take on VIA Rail services in northern Ontario.

I might say that should the government decide to go ahead with the proposed cuts to VIA Rail—for the first time in over 100 years—people along the north shore of Lake Superior, including Thunder Bay, Nipigon, Red Rock, Ignace, Dryden and Kenora will no longer have passenger rail service available to them.

Mr. Rex Crawford (Kent): Mr. Speaker, once again I have the honour to rise in the House pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of the residents of Thunder Bay. The petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the Government of Canada to come to its senses and not to cancel in whole or in part the VIA Rail service in Canada.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a number of petitions signed by residents of my own constituency about the proposed goods and services tax. The petitioners claim that the government, and rightly so, has not addressed the unfair taxation system currently in place which permits wealthy individuals and corporations to pay little or no federal tax while forcing lower and middle-income taxpayers to bear more of the national tax burden.

The petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and reform the taxation system so that there is an effective minimum tax on wealthy individuals and corporations.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Lawrence MacAulay (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition on behalf of a number of people from Thunder Bay. The petitioners call on the government to maintain and upgrade VIA Rail rather than cutting it.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and privilege to present two petitions today. The first petition is on the proposed goods and services tax and has been signed by many residents of southern Ontario, all of them who speak with rage and

with anger at the proposed imposition of this goods and services tax.

Many of the people who have signed this petition have joined with other members of the Bowling Proprietors' Association, one of whose members presented 1,100 signatures in my office just the other day.

They wish to point out for all Canadians the wide impact of the negative aspects of the GST, that is, those who engage in an exercise that is both recreational and healthy will not be able to profit from some of the rebates that the government is proposing. There will be some 600 jobs in that industry lost in Ontario alone if this proposal goes through.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, the second petition is signed by residents of Thunder Bay who are objecting strenuously to the fact that one of the basic infrastructures of this country is being derailed through the cuts to VIA Rail and who now find themselves isolated from all other Canadians.

The petitioners humbly pray and beg this House to engage the minister to reconsider his proposed cuts to VIA Rail.

• (1130)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order 36, I would like to table in the House a petition signed by people from Thunder Bay who strenuously object to the dismantling of VIA Rail. Considering that the region of Thunder Bay has enjoyed VIA Rail services for over a century, the dismantling of VIA Rail will not only be disastrous for the region's economy but also for all users of this transportation mode.

[*English*]

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on the subject of VIA Rail which has been certified correct by the Clerk of Petitions. The petition calls upon Parliament to maintain VIA Rail in Canada's present national rail network, to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment, and to give VIA Rail a sufficient budget to maintain its national mandate for passenger service.

It is one of a long series of petitions, signed by some 55 constituents from the riding of Kootenay West—Revels-