

Petitions

Order 36. It is signed by 3,740 constituents of the ridings of Durham, Oshawa and Ontario. The petitioners call upon Parliament to enact legislation immediately that will protect the life of every human being in Canada, from conception to natural death.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from Canadians who urge the government to abandon its proposal for a goods and services tax because it is unfair and because of its lack of regard for taxpayers' ability to pay.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by residents of the Burnaby and Vancouver area, which points out that railway passenger service as carried on by VIA Rail is essential for many Canadians. It has been a part of Canada for more than 100 years, yet the Government of Canada has announced a cut of \$400 million over five years in its operating grants to VIA. These cuts will result in a serious reduction in passenger railway service and threaten maintenance, safety and jobs.

Finally, the petitioners note that the reductions in budget and service could eliminate one-third of our national passenger railway system. They therefore call upon Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment and guarantee VIA Rail sufficient support to carry out its important mandate to provide passenger service across Canada.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, it is my honour and duty to present a petition on behalf of I think every taxpayer in the town of Vonda, Saskatchewan, who call upon the government to reject the current proposals for a goods and services tax and to reform the taxation system so that the pressure of taxation is more evenly spread out and not only on ordinary Canadians.

Ms. Albina Guarnieri (Mississauga East): Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that once again I am presenting a petition on behalf of Canadians who are both hurt and angry that this government persists in turning a deaf ear to their pleas to repeal the regressive GST.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present a petition which has been certified correct pursuant to Standing Order 36. This petition is

from a number of people in Windsor, Ontario. In this petition the signatories humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on behalf of many Canadians who are asking Parliament to reject outright this goods and services tax, as they fear the imposition will cause serious and unfair hardship to low and middle-income families.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX AND VIA RAIL

Mr. Jim Karpoff (Surrey North): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have two petitions to file, one dealing with the goods and services tax and the other dealing with VIA Rail. The petitioners are basically asking the government to change its positions, to save VIA Rail and to abandon the GST, instead of doing what it is now doing, which is abandoning VIA Rail and trying to save the GST.

VIA RAIL

Hon. Ralph Ferguson (Lambton—Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the citizens of Thunder Bay who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right to present a grievance to this House. They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the Government of Canada not to cancel, in whole or in part, passenger rail service in Canada.

[Translation]

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by a number of constituents in Windsor West. They object to the goods and services tax and call upon Parliament to reject a tax that is so unjust and unfair.

[English]

VIA RAIL

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition on the subject of VIA Rail, a petition which has been certified correct by the Clerk of Petitions.

The petitioners, who come from Coquitlam and the vast majority who come from Revelstoke, British Columbia, which is along the to-be-abandoned Canadian VIA line, suggest to the government that the VIA Rail network be maintained, that the government act to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment, and, to give VIA