

It calls upon this House and all members of Parliament to urge the government to put aside its GST proposal. The GST in the estimation of all Canadians who signed this petition is a prescription for economic disaster.

Among those who have affixed their signatures are Canadians engaged in the tourist industry. These people predict a loss of some 30,000 jobs in the industry, 5,000 of them in Ontario alone. They along with other Canadians plead with this House to scrap the GST totally.

**Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn):** Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present two petitions duly authorized pursuant to Standing Order 36. One petition concerns objections to the general sales tax which is being put forward by the government. They point out that it is unfair and that it is taxing people on their ability to pay. They object to haircuts being taxed, as well as diapers and home heating fuels.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of a number of constituents, pursuant to Standing Order 36, people from Kamloops who are almost delirious in their opposition to the general sales tax.

They point out a whole variety of areas where they think the government is completely wrong-headed in its approach and are asking it to back off from this very punitive, cruel, horrible and discriminatory tax.

#### VIA RAIL

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, on a different issue, and pursuant to Standing Order 36, I have a petition certified correct by the clerk of petitions to present.

It is from Quebec where a variety of communities have come together with a number of western Canadian communities in opposition to the government's decision to curtail VIA Rail service to so many Canadian communities. They point out why this is a particularly environmentally unsound decision.

With the Minister of the Environment being here, I hope that he is paying attention to all these different people speaking out against the transfer of so many people who presently ride the trains to automobiles, congested airports, and the like.

#### Petitions

I think they make a very convincing case for the Minister of the Environment.

[Translation]

#### PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

**Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition which deals with a subject that is very important to my constituents. Your petitioners object to the proposed goods and services tax. They believe that in proposing this tax, the Government is making the wrong decision for Canadians. Your petitioners call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

[English]

#### VIA RAIL

**Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan):** Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and responsibility to present a petition under Standing Order 36 which has been certified correct by the clerk.

The petitioners state that whereas the Government of Canada has called for the closure, sale or transfer of substantial parts of the VIA Rail system, therefore they ask the Parliament of Canada to maintain VIA Rail, Canada's present national network.

We ask Parliament to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment.

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches—Woodbine):** Mr. Speaker, I have a petition, pursuant to Standing Order 36, which has been certified correct as to form and content.

This petition is signed by Canadians from across the country who say that the Government of Canada has called for the closure, sale or transfer of substantial parts of the VIA Rail system and asks the Parliament of Canada to maintain VIA Rail, Canada's present national network.

• (1130)

They ask Parliament to upgrade VIA Rail with new equipment. They ask Parliament for a passenger train act, giving VIA Rail a firm legislative mandate. Finally, they ask Parliament for a revised costing arrangement with the railway companies.

#### RIGHT TO LIFE

**Mr. Ross Stevenson (Durham):** Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to present a petition pursuant to Standing