

VIA RAIL

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition that comes from communities across Ontario expressing concern about the impact on the tourism industry and on Canadians of the cuts to VIA Rail, and asking that the government not continue with these cuts.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (St. Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and the privilege to present to this House a number of petitions with respect to the goods and services tax, this brutal tax that is about to be imposed upon Canadians, this anti-family, anti-children tax.

[*Translation*]

I present this petition in accordance with the Standing Orders of the House. This is a bad tax, and the reactions of Canadians have been very negative.

[*English*]

VIA RAIL

Mrs. Beryl Gaffney (Nepean): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand this morning, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present petitions, 52 from the Belleville and Tweed area of Ontario, and 60 from the Brockville area of Ontario, which are opposed to the government's measures to cut back on VIA Rail across this country. The petitioners are very concerned about the loss of thousands of jobs. They feel that a proper analysis has not been done, where a disproportionate subsidy is required for highway infrastructure or airports, as opposed to VIA Rail. These petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to urge the Government of Canada not to cancel, in whole or in part, rail passenger services in Canada.

FISHERIES

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I rise, pursuant to Standing Order 36, to present a number of petitions. The first petition relates to the outrage felt by people in my riding, both on the Saanich Peninsula and on the Gulf Islands, to the horror of drift-net fishing that is occurring in the north Pacific. As my colleague from Nanaimo—Cowichan says these drift-nets are curtains of death. Over 500 people in my constituency alone have signed this petition. They call upon the government to act. We should be putting

Petitions

prohibitive tariffs and duties against the countries that engage in this practice.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): The second petition I want to present is related to the goods and services tax and is signed by nearly 1,000 people in my riding of Saanich—Gulf Islands, to let the government know of their outrage and distress at this measure. It also talks about their awareness that this is really a device with which to shift the tax burden to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumptive tax. The petition calls on the government to engage in real tax reform.

OLD AGE SECURITY

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): The third petition I would like to present relates to the clawback of old age pensions. This petition is once again signed by over 500 of my constituents, many of whom are senior citizens who know that in spite of the smoke and mirrors engaged in by this government regarding high income pensioners, we know that the reality is that this is an assault on the universality of social programs.

I am pleased to present these petitions and I will alert the House to the fact that there will be plenty more coming from Saanich—Gulf Islands.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and honour to present to the House a petition executed on behalf of residents of the constituency of Scarborough—Rouge River. The petition has been certified correct and the petitioners call upon the government to reject the proposed goods and services tax for the reason that it will cause undue hardship to low and middle-income Canadians, cause higher inflation and higher interest rates.

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Mr. Jim Peterson (Willowdale): Mr. Speaker, I rise to present to this House a petition dealing with the cutting off of VIA Rail service. What is most regrettable, as I rise to present this petition, is that the government, because of its majority and its arrogance, will not listen, but through this petition the people of Canada are speaking out loud and clear. The people who in the regions are affected most adversely by these cuts, which are insensitive and have no basis in economic reality. I am pleased to present this petition to this House from the people of Belleville.