

Routine Proceedings

Your petitioners humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject the proposed goods and services tax.

Mr. Ronald J. Duhamel (Saint-Boniface): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and the privilege to table a petition on the goods and services tax.

[English]

This is a tax, according to these individuals, that really attacks the fundamental fabric of Canada. It will attack our 3.5 million to 5 million poor and single parents, particularly mothers. It will also have a negative impact on seniors, and on students who will be paying additional taxes for their education. They also point out the nightmare that will be caused for business people.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the tax is anti-family and anti-child, and they want the tax to be abolished.

[English]

VIA RAIL

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have the honour to present six petitions on behalf of petitioners from all western provinces who are very concerned about the cut-backs to the VIA Rail service, and who feel that the cuts of some \$400 million over five years will result in a serious reduction of passenger railway service, threaten maintenance, safety and jobs.

They call upon Parliament to maintain the existing VIA network, upgrade VIA equipment and guarantee VIA sufficient support to carry out its mandate to provide passenger service in Canada.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition certified by the Clerk of Petitions.

This petition is from the community of Heart's Desire in my riding. The people in that area, it is no surprise to you, rely very heavily on unemployment insurance. They are very concerned about the withdrawing of the government's \$2.9 billion from the insurance fund, leaving the financing of this crucial program to workers and employees.

They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to reject these cuts in the unemployment insurance system and to come up with a better system and a more effective regional development policy.

PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Mr. Peter Milliken (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to present a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 in opposition to the government's proposed goods and services tax. The petition is signed by a great number of residents of the riding of Kingston and The Islands who are opposed to this tax and who call upon Parliament to reject any government proposal to introduce the tax in this House and to impose it unfairly and unjustly on the people of Canada.

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 36 to present a petition signed by a number of residents of Burnaby and New Westminster, B.C., and Timmins, Ontario, in opposition to the government's proposed goods and services tax.

The petitioners request that Parliament reject the current proposal for a goods and services tax and cause the government to cease with the proposal which will shift the tax burden on to ordinary Canadians through a regressive consumption tax instead of through real tax reform.

VIA RAIL

Mr. Lyle Kristiansen (Kootenay West—Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I also have another in a long series of petitions on the subject of VIA Rail. Again, the petition has been certified as correct by the Clerk of Petitions.

It is signed by a large number of residents of British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba, including two signatories from the community of Craigellachie, which was the site of the driving of the last spike in the construction of the trans-Canada railway. These citizens obviously hope that their community will not see the end of the railway that they played such an important part in establishing.

The petitioners call on 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.