

BANKING/ FINANCE

Protests Worldwide Against US Idea of Auto Import Tariffs



PATRICK T. FALLON/BLOOMBERG NEWS

President Donald Trump has suggested seeking new tariffs of 20 to 25 percent on automobile imports.

by Christopher Bodeen

China, Japan and the European Union condemned the Trump administration's decision to launch an investigation into whether tariffs are needed on imports of vehicles and automotive parts into the United States.

President Donald Trump invoked a provision authorizing the president to restrict imports and impose unlimited tariffs on national security grounds.

The move is seen as an effort to gain a bargaining chip in stalled talks with Canada and Mexico over the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Mexico is the top exporter of passenger vehicles and light trucks to the U.S. followed by Japan, Canada, Germany and South Korea, according to the Department of Commerce.

Japan's minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Hiroshige Seko, said Japan, which accounts for about 40 percent of U.S. vehicle imports, will continue to remind U.S. officials that any trade measures must conform to the rules of the World Trade Organization.

If such a measure is taken, "it would be an extremely far-reaching trade sanction that would put the global market into turmoil," Seko said. "We are extremely concerned."

Germany's association of industry groups said auto tariffs would be a "provocation" and "another nasty blow to our economic relations" with the United States. The EU executive said it would be against the rules of global trade.

In Beijing, Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng told reporters that abusing national security provisions would "undermine the multilateral trade system and disrupt the order of international trade."

"China will pay close attention to the progress of the U.S. investigation,

conduct a comprehensive assessment of the possible impact and firmly defend our legitimate rights and interests," Gao told reporters at a news conference.

Japanese and European automakers did not issue individual comments but some referred to Global Automakers, based in Washington, an industry group of international automakers. Global Automakers Chief Executive John Bozzella said the move would merely hurt American consumers.

"The U.S. auto industry is thriving and growing. Thirteen, soon to be 14 companies, produced nearly 12 million cars and trucks in America last year. To our knowledge, no one is asking for this protection. This path leads inevitably to fewer choices and higher prices for cars and trucks in America," he said in a statement.

Last week Japan went to the World Trade Organization to warn of possible retaliation for tariffs on steel and aluminum, which Trump imposed in March. Japan is the only major U.S. ally that was not granted a temporary exemption from the tariffs. Japan estimates they will cost it about \$450 million a year.

China is a relatively minor player in the U.S. auto import market, ranked 10th in dollar terms, but its massive car industry is eager to expand abroad. In auto parts exports to the U.S., China was ranked second last year.

A person familiar with the discussions said the president has suggested seeking new tariffs of 20 to 25 percent on automobile imports.

Critics fear other countries will retaliate with trade sanctions of their own and question whether the move would ever be effective given the lengthy review required and legal challenges ahead.

Christopher Bodeen reports for the Associated Press.



CITY OF DORAL NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRANCE FEATURE APPROVAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Article III, Division 2, Entrance Feature, Section 77-103 of the City Land Development Code, the Planning and Zoning Director for the City of Doral has approved the following Entrance Feature Plan.

APPLICANT: Fabio A. Rodriguez, on behalf of CC Doral 4200, LLC

PROJECT NAME: Doral 4200 Entrance Feature

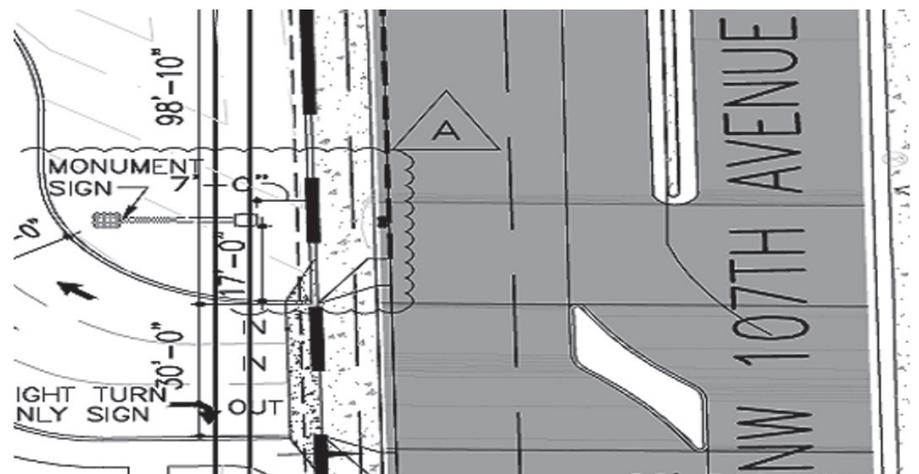
LOCATION: 4200 NW 107th Avenue

FOLIO NO.: 35-3019-001-0500

DESCRIPTION: One entrance feature located on NW 107th Avenue as per plans entitled "Doral 4200", prepared by MSA Architects and Witkin Hulst Design Group, dated stamped received May 1, 2018, as amended.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT 55 OF "FLORIDA FRUIT LANDS COMPANY'S SUBDIVISION No.1" ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, PAGE 17, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, LYING IN THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 53 SOUTH, RANGE 40 EAST, CITY OF DORAL. MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Location



Information relating to the subject application is on file and may be examined in the City of Doral, Planning and Zoning Department (305-593-6630) located at 8401 N.W. 53 Terrace, Doral, Florida 33166, during normal business hours.

Pursuant to Section 77-103 of the City Code, any property owner in the area may appeal the decision of the Planning and Zoning Department Director within 15 days after the decision is published in The Daily Business Review. If no appeal is filed within the 15-day period, the maintenance agreement shall be recorded and the approval shall become effective.

Connie Diaz, CMC
City Clerk