

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5328

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ASSESSMENT OF TRANS-ATLANTIC SUBMARINE**

4 **FIBER OPTIC CABLE.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED CABLE.—The term “covered
2 cable” means a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic
3 cable described in subsection (b).

4 (2) NOT TRUSTED.—The term “not trusted”
5 means, with respect to an entity, that the entity is
6 determined by the Secretary to pose an unacceptable
7 risk to the national security of the United States or
8 the security and safety of United States persons
9 based solely on one or more determinations de-
10 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 2(c)
11 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Net-
12 works Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601(c)).

13 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the As-
15 sistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications
16 and Information.

17 (4) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means,
18 with respect to an entity, that the Secretary has not
19 determined that the entity is not trusted.

20 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
21 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation
22 with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies
23 as necessary, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce,
24 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
25 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-

1 representatives a report containing an assessment of the
2 value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine
3 fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States,
4 the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria, to
5 enhance the national security of the United States.

6 (c) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
7 (b) shall include an assessment of—

8 (1) the digital security, national security, and
9 economic opportunities associated with a covered
10 cable;

11 (2) the lifespan of submarine fiber optic cables
12 connecting the United States Virgin Islands to the
13 contiguous United States as of the date of the re-
14 port;

15 (3) the security of telecommunications between
16 the contiguous United States and the United States
17 Virgin Islands as of the date of the report;

18 (4) the readiness of telecommunications infra-
19 structure in the United States Virgin Islands to sup-
20 port a covered cable;

21 (5) the potential for engagement with trusted
22 entities in the deployment of a covered cable, and
23 the associated geopolitical and economic advantages;

1 (6) the potential connectivity opportunities to
2 maximize investments in the United States economy
3 through the use of a covered cable;

4 (7) the value, cost, and feasibility of estab-
5 lishing a data center and high-security cloud services
6 facility, with independent power generation, in the
7 United States Virgin Islands for communications of
8 the United States Africa Command, communications
9 of the United States Special Operations Command,
10 and national security communications;

11 (8) the state of submarine fiber optic cables
12 connected to United States telecommunications in-
13 frastructure; and

14 (9) any other related matters the Secretary de-
15 termines are appropriate.

16 (d) NO MANDATORY DATA COLLECTION.—The Sec-
17 retary may not require any entity to provide data for pur-
18 poses of preparing the report required by subsection (b).

19 (e) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b)
20 shall be submitted in unclassified form without any des-
21 ignation relating to dissemination control, but may include
22 a classified annex.

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