

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2503

To require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2025

Mr. KEAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Undersea Cable Con-
5 trol Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE THE AVAILABILITY TO**
2 **FOREIGN ADVERSARIES OF ITEMS REQUIRED**
3 **FOR SUPPORTING UNDERSEA CABLES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the
5 Secretary of Commerce and in coordination with the Sec-
6 retary of State, shall develop a strategy to eliminate the
7 availability to foreign adversaries of items required for
8 supporting undersea cables consistent with United States
9 policy described in section 1752 of the Export Control Re-
10 form Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4811).

11 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy re-
12 quired under subsection (a) shall include the following:

13 (1) An identification of items required for sup-
14 porting the construction, maintenance, or operation
15 of an undersea cable project.

16 (2) An identification of United States and mul-
17 tilateral export controls and licensing policies for
18 items identified pursuant to paragraph (1) with re-
19 spect to foreign adversaries.

20 (3) An identification of United States allies and
21 partners that have a share of the global market with
22 respect to the items so identified, including a de-
23 tailed description of the availability of such items
24 without restriction in sufficient quantities and com-
25 parable in quality to those produced in the United
26 States.

1 (4) A description of ongoing negotiations with
2 other countries to achieve unified export controls
3 and licensing policies for items so identified to elimi-
4 nate availability to foreign adversaries.

5 (5) To the extent practicable, an identification
6 of all identified entities under the control, ownership,
7 or influence of a foreign adversary that support the
8 construction, operation, or maintenance of undersea
9 cables.

10 (6) A description of efforts taken to promote
11 United States leadership at international standards-
12 setting bodies for equipment, systems, software, and
13 virtually defined networks relevant to undersea ca-
14 bles, taking into account the different processes fol-
15 lowed by such bodies.

16 (7) A description of the presence and activities
17 of foreign adversaries at international standards-set-
18 ting bodies relevant to undersea cables, including in-
19 formation on the differences in the scope and scale
20 of the engagement of foreign adversaries at such
21 bodies compared to engagement at such bodies by
22 the United States and its allies and partners, and
23 the security risks raised by the proposals of foreign
24 adversaries at such bodies.

25 (c) REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act and an-
3 nually thereafter for 3 years, the President shall
4 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
5 a report that contains the strategy required under
6 subsection (a).

7 (2) FORM.—Each report required under this
8 subsection shall—

9 (A) be submitted in unclassified form, but
10 may contain a classified annex; and

11 (B) be made available on a publicly acces-
12 sible Federal Government website.

13 (d) AGREEMENT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
16 shall seek to—

17 (A) establish bilateral or multilateral
18 agreements with allies and partners identified
19 pursuant to subsection (b)(3) to seek to elimi-
20 nate the availability to foreign adversaries of
21 items identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1);
22 and

23 (B) include in such agreements penalty
24 provisions for noncompliance.

1 (2) BRIEFINGS.—The President shall brief the
2 congressional committees specified in subsection
3 (c)(1) on negotiations to establish agreements de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1) beginning not later than 30
5 days after receipt of the report required under sub-
6 section (a) and every 180 days thereafter until each
7 such agreement is established.

8 (e) ACTIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
10 shall evaluate the export, reexport, and in-country
11 transfer of the items identified pursuant to sub-
12 section (b)(1) for appropriate controls under the Ex-
13 port Administration Regulations, including by evalu-
14 ating, for each item so identified, whether to add the
15 technology to the Commerce Control List maintained
16 under title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

17 (2) LEVELS OF CONTROL.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—In determining the
19 level of control appropriate for items identified
20 pursuant to subsection (b)(1), including re-
21 quirements for a license or other authorization
22 for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer
23 of any such technology, the Secretary of Com-
24 merce (in coordination with the Secretary of
25 Defense, the Secretary of State, and the heads

1 of other Federal agencies, as appropriate) shall
2 take into account the potential end uses and
3 end users of the item.

4 (B) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—At a min-
5 imum, it is the policy of the United States to
6 work with its allies and partners to control the
7 export, reexport, or in-country transfer of tech-
8 nologies identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1)
9 to or in a country subject to an embargo, in-
10 cluding an arms embargo, imposed by the
11 United States.

12 (3) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
14 thereafter for 3 years, the President, acting through
15 the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit to the ap-
16 propriate congressional committees an unclassified
17 notification describing the results of actions taken
18 pursuant to this subsection in the preceding period,
19 including a description of—

20 (A) the individual items evaluated for con-
21 trols; and

22 (B) the rationale, including United States
23 national security and foreign policy consider-
24 ations, for adding or not adding an item to the
25 Commerce Control List maintained under title

1 15, Code of Federal Regulations, pursuant to
2 the evaluation under paragraph (1) with respect
3 to such item.

4 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
6 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
9 the House of Representatives; and

10 (B) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
11 and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

12 (2) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term “foreign
13 adversary” has the meaning given such term in sec-
14 tion 8(c) of the Secure and Trusted Communications
15 Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)).

16 (3) ITEM.—The term “item” has the meaning
17 given such term in the Export Administration Regu-
18 lations (15 C.F.R. 772.1).

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