

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3385

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. ASSESSMENT OF TRANS-ATLANTIC SUBMARINE**
2 **FIBER OPTIC CABLE.**

3 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation
5 with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies
6 as necessary, shall submit to the Committee on Energy
7 and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the
8 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
9 the Senate a report containing an assessment of the value,
10 cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber
11 optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the
12 United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria, to en-
13 hance the national security of the United States.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
15 (a) shall include an assessment of—

16 (1) the digital security, national security, and
17 economic opportunities associated with a trans-At-
18 lantic submarine fiber optic cable described in sub-
19 section (a);

20 (2) the lifespan of submarine fiber optic cables
21 currently connecting the United States Virgin Is-
22 lands to the contiguous United States;

23 (3) the current security of telecommunications
24 between the contiguous United States and the
25 United States Virgin Islands;

1 (4) the readiness of telecommunications infra-
2 structure in the United States Virgin Islands to sup-
3 port a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable de-
4 scribed in subsection (a);

5 (5) the potential for engagement with trusted
6 entities in the deployment of a trans-Atlantic sub-
7 marine fiber optic cable described in subsection (a),
8 and the associated geopolitical and economic advan-
9 tages;

10 (6) the potential connectivity opportunities to
11 maximize investments in the United States economy
12 through the use of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber
13 optic cable described in subsection (a);

14 (7) the value, cost, and feasibility of estab-
15 lishing a data center and high-security cloud services
16 facility, with independent power generation, in the
17 United States Virgin Islands for communications of
18 the United States Africa Command, communications
19 of the United States Special Operations Command,
20 and national security communications;

21 (8) the state of submarine fiber optic cables
22 connected to United States telecommunications in-
23 frastructure; and

24 (9) any other related matters the Secretary de-
25 termines are appropriate.

1 (c) NO MANDATORY DATA COLLECTION.—The Sec-
2 retary may not require any entity to provide data for pur-
3 poses of preparing the report required by subsection (a).

4 (d) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
5 shall be submitted in unclassified form without any des-
6 ignation relating to dissemination control, but may include
7 a classified annex.

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) NOT TRUSTED.—The term “not trusted”
10 means, with respect to an entity, that the entity is
11 determined by the Secretary to pose an unacceptable
12 risk to the national security of the United States, or
13 the security and safety of United States persons,
14 based solely on one or more determination described
15 under paragraphs (1) through (4) of section 2(c) of
16 the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks
17 Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601(c)).

18 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the As-
20 sistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications
21 and Information.

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

Passed the House of Representatives March 5,
2024.

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.