

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3385

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2023

Ms. PLASKETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of developing a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria, 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 “DiasporaLink Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANS-AT-**
2 **LANTIC SUBMARINE FIBER OPTIC CABLE.**

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

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

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 current reliability and security of tele-
2 communications infrastructure in the United States
3 Virgin Islands;

4 (5) the potential for engagement with trusted
5 entities in the development by the United States of
6 a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable de-
7 scribed in subsection (a), and the associated geo-
8 political and economic advantages;

9 (6) the potential digital sovereignty opportuni-
10 ties of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable
11 described in subsection (a);

12 (7) the value, cost, and feasibility of estab-
13 lishing a data center and high-security cloud services
14 facility, with independent power generation, in the
15 United States Virgin Islands for military and na-
16 tional security communications; and

17 (8) any other related matters the Assistant Sec-
18 retary determines are appropriate.

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

23 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
2 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
3 Commerce for Communications and Information.

4 (2) NOT TRUSTED.—The term “not trusted”
5 means, with respect to an entity, that the entity is
6 determined by the Assistant Secretary to pose an
7 unacceptable risk to the national security of the
8 United States, or the security and safety of United
9 States persons, based solely on one or more deter-
10 mination described under paragraphs (1) through
11 (4) of section 2(c) of the Secure and Trusted Com-
12 munications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C.
13 1601(e)).

14 (3) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means,
15 with respect to an entity, that the Assistant Sec-
16 retary has not determined that the entity is not
17 trusted.

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