

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO THE COMMITTEE PRINT FOR H.R. 3385  
OFFERED BY M . \_\_\_\_\_**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

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-

1 lantic submarine fiber optic cable described in sub-  
2 section (a);

3 (2) the lifespan of submarine fiber optic cables  
4 currently connecting the United States Virgin Is-  
5 lands to the contiguous United States;

6 (3) the current security of telecommunications  
7 between the contiguous United States and the  
8 United States Virgin Islands;

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

13 (5) the potential for engagement with trusted  
14 entities in the deployment of a trans-Atlantic sub-  
15 marine fiber optic cable described in subsection (a),  
16 and the associated geopolitical and economic advan-  
17 tages;

18 (6) the potential connectivity opportunities to  
19 maximize investments in the United States economy  
20 through the use of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber  
21 optic cable described in subsection (a);

22 (7) the value, cost, and feasibility of estab-  
23 lishing a data center and high-security cloud services  
24 facility, with independent power generation, in the  
25 United States Virgin Islands for communications of

1 the United States Africa Command, communications  
2 of the United States Special Operations Command,  
3 and national security communications;

4 (8) the state of submarine fiber optic cables  
5 connected to United States telecommunications in-  
6 frastructure; and

7 (9) any other related matters the Secretary de-  
8 termines are appropriate.

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

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

16 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

1           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the As-  
3           sistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications  
4           and Information.

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

Amend the title so as to read: “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.”.

