

[Committee Print]

[SHOWING THE TEXT OF H.R. 3385, AS FORWARDED BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY ON JULY 12, 2023]

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “DiasporaLink Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT OF TRANS-ATLANTIC SUBMARINE**
4 **FIBER OPTIC CABLE.**

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

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

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

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

1 (3) the current security of telecommunications
2 between the contiguous United States and the
3 United States Virgin Islands;

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

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

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

17 (7) the value, cost, and feasibility of estab-
18 lishing a data center and high-security cloud services
19 facility, with independent power generation, in the
20 United States Virgin Islands for military and na-
21 tional security communications; and

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

24 (c) NO MANDATORY DATA COLLECTION.—The As-
25 sistant Secretary may not require any entity to provide

1 data for purposes of preparing the report required by sub-
2 section (a).

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

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

11 (2) NOT TRUSTED.—The term “not trusted”
12 means, with respect to an entity, that the entity is
13 determined by the Assistant Secretary to pose an
14 unacceptable risk to the national security of the
15 United States, or the security and safety of United
16 States persons, based solely on one or more deter-
17 mination described under paragraphs (1) through
18 (4) of section 2(c) of the Secure and Trusted Com-
19 munications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C.
20 1601(c)).

21 (3) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means,
22 with respect to an entity, that the Assistant Sec-
23 retary has not determined that the entity is not
24 trusted.

Amend the title so as to read: “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 a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria, and for other purposes.”.