

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2063

To prohibit the President or a Federal agency from constructing, operating, or offering wholesale or retail services on broadband networks without authorization from Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2019

Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. VELA, and Mr. BANKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To prohibit the President or a Federal agency from constructing, operating, or offering wholesale or retail services on broadband networks without authorization from Congress, 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 “Eliminate From Regu-
5 lators Opportunities to Nationalize The Internet in Every
6 Respect Act” or the “E-FRONTIER Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OR A FED-**
2 **ERAL AGENCY CONSTRUCTING, OPERATING,**
3 **OR OFFERING SERVICES ON BROADBAND**
4 **NETWORKS.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 (1) the term “agency” has the meaning given
7 the term in section 902 of title 5, United States
8 Code;

9 (2) the term “broadband network”—

10 (A) means a communications network, the
11 primary purpose of which is to provide con-
12 sumers with the capability to transmit data to
13 and receive data from all or substantially all
14 internet endpoints; and

15 (B) includes a next-generation mobile
16 broadband network;

17 (3) the term “nationwide public safety
18 broadband network” has the meaning given the term
19 in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and
20 Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401); and

21 (4) the term “President” means the President
22 of the United States.

23 (b) PROHIBITION.—Neither the President nor an
24 agency may construct, operate, or offer wholesale or retail
25 service on a broadband network unless a duly enacted Act

1 of Congress signed into law by the President provides the
2 President or the agency, as applicable, with that authority.

3 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion may be construed to—

5 (1) limit, restrict, or circumvent in any way—

6 (A) the implementation of the nationwide
7 public safety broadband network; or

8 (B) any rules implementing the nationwide
9 public safety broadband network under title VI
10 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Cre-
11 ation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.);

12 (2) affect the authority of the President under
13 section 706 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
14 U.S.C. 606);

15 (3) prevent—

16 (A) an agency from providing another
17 agency with access to a broadband network; or

18 (B) a private entity from obtaining access
19 to a broadband network at a facility that is
20 owned or operated by the Federal Government
21 if that entity is under a contract to provide
22 services at that facility; or

23 (4) affect the authority of the Federal Commu-
24 nications Commission under the Communications
25 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON VULNERABILITIES OF UNITED STATES**

2 **BROADBAND NETWORKS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

4 (1) the term “appropriate committees of Con-
5 gress” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
7 and Transportation of the Senate;

8 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of
9 the Senate;

10 (C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of
11 the Senate;

12 (D) the Committee on Energy and Com-
13 merce of the House of Representatives;

14 (E) the Committee on Armed Services of
15 the House of Representatives; and

16 (F) the Permanent Select Committee on
17 Intelligence of the House of Representatives;
18 and

19 (2) the term “broadband network” has the
20 meaning given the term in section 2(a).

21 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
22 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
23 United States shall conduct a study and submit to the ap-
24 propriate committees of Congress a report, which shall in-
25 clude—

26 (1) a discussion and analysis of—

1 (A) potential threats facing broadband net-
2 works in the United States from—

3 (i) the Government of the People’s
4 Republic of China;

5 (ii) the Government of Iran;

6 (iii) the Government of the Russian
7 Federation; and

8 (iv) any other potential foreign adver-
9 sary of the United States; and

10 (B) the risks associated with using foreign
11 equipment and services in broadband networks
12 in the United States; and

13 (2) recommendations, if any, regarding how
14 service providers with respect to broadband networks
15 in the United States can reduce the vulnerabilities of
16 those networks to foreign threats.

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