

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-33
OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following:

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

1 (2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
2 of Commerce, acting through the Assistant Sec-
3 retary of Commerce for Communications and Infor-
4 mation.

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

