

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

1 **SEC. 13 __ . ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANS-**
2 **ATLANTIC SUBMARINE FIBER OPTIC CABLE**
3 **CONNECTING THE MAINLAND UNITED**
4 **STATES, THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN IS-**
5 **LANDS, GHANA, AND NIGERIA.**

6 (a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce,
8 in consultation with the heads of other Federal depart-
9 ments and agencies as necessary, shall submit to the Com-
10 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science,
12 and Transportation of the Senate a report containing an
13 assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of developing
14 a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the
15 mainland United States, the United States Virgin Islands,
16 Ghana, and Nigeria.

17 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
18 (a) shall include—

1 (1) the digital security and national security op-
2 portunities associated with such a trans-Atlantic
3 submarine fiber optic cable;

4 (2) the lifespan of submarine fiber optic cables
5 presently connecting the United States Virgin Is-
6 lands to the rest of the United States;

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

10 (4) the national security, digital security, and
11 economic advantages associated with a trans-Atlan-
12 tic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the United
13 States, the United States Virgin Islands, and the
14 nations of Ghana and Nigeria;

15 (5) the present reliability and security of tele-
16 communications infrastructure in the United States
17 Virgin Islands;

18 (6) the potential for international engagement
19 in a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable con-
20 nection produced by the United States and the asso-
21 ciated geopolitical and economic advantages;

22 (7) the potential digital sovereignty opportuni-
23 ties of such a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic
24 cable;

1 (8) the value, cost, and feasibility of estab-
2 lishing a data center and high-security cloud services
3 facility, with independent power generation, in the
4 United States Virgin Islands for military and na-
5 tional security communications; and

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

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

