

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-**

**10**

**OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS**

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

1 **SEC. 1071. ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRANS-**  
2 **ATLANTIC SUBMARINE FIBER OPTIC CABLE.**

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

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection  
15 (a) shall include—

16 (1) the digital security, national security, and  
17 economic opportunities and advantages associated  
18 with a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable de-  
19 scribed in subsection (a);

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

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

7           (4) the current reliability and security of tele-  
8           communications infrastructure in the United States  
9           Virgin Islands;

10          (5) the current security of telecommunications  
11          between the United States and Africa;

12          (6) the potential for engagement with trusted  
13          entities in the development by the United States of  
14          a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable de-  
15          scribed in subsection (a), and the associated geo-  
16          political and economic advantages;

17          (7) the potential opportunities to maximize  
18          commercial opportunities and investments in United  
19          States infrastructure that are associated with a  
20          trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable described  
21          in subsection (a);

22          (8) 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

1 United States Virgin Islands for military and na-  
2 tional security communications; and

3 (9) any other related matters the Assistant Sec-  
4 retary determines are appropriate.

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

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

23 (3) TRUSTED.—The term “trusted” means,  
24 with respect to an entity, that the Assistant Sec-

1       retary has not determined that the entity is not  
2       trusted.

