

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 119-33**  
**OFFERED BY MR. WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Add at the end of title XVII the following:

1           **Subtitle C—Strategic Subsea**  
2                           **Cables Act of 2026**

3 **SEC. 17\_\_\_ . ENHANCING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EN-**  
4                           **GAGEMENT WITH RELEVANT INTER-**  
5                           **NATIONAL BODIES TO SAFEGUARD UNITED**  
6                           **STATES INTERESTS.**

7           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, in coordi-  
8 nation with the interagency committee, as appropriate,  
9 shall seek to increase United States Government engage-  
10 ment with relevant international bodies to advance United  
11 States national security and economic interests as it re-  
12 lates to critical undersea infrastructure.

13           (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date  
14 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for  
15 5 years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appro-  
16 priate congressional committees a report that includes the  
17 following:

18                   (1) A description of how increased United  
19 States Government engagement with relevant inter-  
20 national bodies, including in coordination with the

1 United States domestic subsea cable industry, could  
2 support United States national security objectives as  
3 it relates to the protection of critical undersea infra-  
4 structure.

5 (2) A description of key objectives for pro-  
6 moting and protecting United States national secu-  
7 rity interests within relevant international bodies.

8 (3) A description of how the People's Republic  
9 of China entities leverage their engagement with rel-  
10 evant international bodies to further their strategic  
11 interests.

12 (4) A description of how encouraging other  
13 countries and regional bodies to engage with rel-  
14 evant international bodies can better ensure coordi-  
15 nated, consistent global subsea communications in-  
16 frastructure policies.

17 (5) A description of international bodies rel-  
18 evant for critical undersea infrastructure where the  
19 United States should increase its diplomatic engage-  
20 ment.

21 **SEC. 17 \_\_\_\_. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO**  
22 **CRITICAL UNDERSEA INFRASTRUCTURE SAB-**  
23 **OTAGE.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, in coordination  
25 with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the

1 Treasury, shall impose the sanctions described in sub-  
2 section (c) with respect to any foreign person that the  
3 President determines, on or after the date of the enact-  
4 ment of this Act, is responsible for acts of sabotage or  
5 facilitates acts of sabotage against critical undersea infra-  
6 structure, including—

7 (1) any foreign vessel or entity the owner or op-  
8 erator of which knowingly—

9 (A) commits acts of sabotage; or

10 (B) conducts preparatory surveillance,  
11 logistical support, security, or other services  
12 that facilitate or enable an act of sabotage; and

13 (2) any foreign person that the President deter-  
14 mines knowingly—

15 (A) owns, operates, or manages the vessel  
16 or entity described in paragraph (1);

17 (B) provides underwriting services or in-  
18 surance or reinsurance necessary for such a  
19 vessel or entity;

20 (C) facilitates deceptive or structured  
21 transactions to support a vessel or entity de-  
22 scribed in paragraph (1);

23 (D) provides port or logistics services or  
24 facilities for technology upgrades or installation  
25 of equipment for, or retrofitting or tethering of,

1 a vessel described in paragraph (1) for the pur-  
2 pose of evading sanctions;

3 (E) provides documentation, registration,  
4 or flagging services for a vessel described in  
5 paragraph (1) for the purpose of evading sanc-  
6 tions; or

7 (F) serves as a captain, principal officer,  
8 or senior leadership of such a vessel or an enti-  
9 ty.

10 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-  
11 scribed in this subsection are the following:

12 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President  
13 may exercise all of the powers granted by the Inter-  
14 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
15 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block  
16 and prohibit all transactions in all property and in-  
17 terests in property of a foreign person described in  
18 subsection (a), if such property and interests in  
19 property are in the United States, come within the  
20 United States, or are or come within the possession  
21 or control of a United States person.

22 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR  
23 PAROLE.—

24 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An  
25 alien described in subsection (a) shall be—

1 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

2 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other

3 documentation to enter the United States;

4 and

5 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted

6 or paroled into the United States or to re-

7 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-

8 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et

9 seq.).

10 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other

12 entry documentation of an alien described

13 in subsection (a) shall be revoked, regard-

14 less of when such visa or other entry docu-

15 mentation is or was issued.

16 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-

17 tion under clause (i) shall—

18 (I) take effect immediately; and

19 (II) automatically cancel any

20 other valid visa or entry documenta-

21 tion that is in the possession of the

22 alien.

23 (c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

24 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-

25 ercise all authorities provided under sections 203

1 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic  
2 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out  
3 this section.

4 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in  
5 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-  
6 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
7 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to any person that violates,  
8 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
9 violation of any prohibition of this section, or an  
10 order or regulation prescribed under this section, to  
11 the same extent that such penalties apply to a per-  
12 son that commits an unlawful act described in sec-  
13 tion 206(a) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1705(a)).

14 (d) EXCEPTIONS.—

15 (1) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NA-  
16 TIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND LAW EN-  
17 FORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this sec-  
18 tion shall not apply with respect to the admission or  
19 parole of an alien to the United States if admitting  
20 or paroling the alien is necessary—

21 (A) to permit the United States to comply  
22 with the Agreement regarding the Head-  
23 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake  
24 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force  
25 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-

1           tions and the United States, or other applicable  
2           international obligations of the United States;  
3           or

4           (B) to carry out or assist authorized law  
5           enforcement activity in the United States.

6           (2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTEL-  
7           LIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section  
8           shall not apply to any activity subject to the report-  
9           ing requirements under title V of the National Secu-  
10          rity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any au-  
11          thorized intelligence activities of the United States.

12          (3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF  
13          GOODS.—

14                (A) IN GENERAL.—A requirement to block  
15                and prohibit all transactions in all property and  
16                interests in property under this section shall not  
17                include the authority or requirement to impose  
18                sanctions on the importation of goods.

19                (B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph,  
20                the term “good” means any article, natural or  
21                manmade substance, material, supply or manu-  
22                factured product, including inspection and test  
23                equipment, and excluding technical data.

24          (e) NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS WAIVER.—The  
25          President may waive the application of sanctions under

1 this section if, before issuing the waiver, the President  
2 submits to the appropriate congressional committees—

3 (1) a certification in writing that the issuance  
4 of the waiver is in the national security interests of  
5 the United States; and

6 (2) a report explaining the basis for the certifi-  
7 cation.

8 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms  
10 “admission”, “admitted”, and “alien” have the  
11 meanings given those terms in section 101 of the  
12 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

13 (2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-  
14 son” means an individual or entity that is not a  
15 United States person.

16 (3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
17 “United States person” means—

18 (A) any United States citizen or an alien  
19 lawfully admitted for permanent residence to  
20 the United States;

21 (B) an entity organized under the laws of  
22 the United States or of any jurisdiction within  
23 the United States, including any foreign branch  
24 of such an entity; or

25 (C) any person in the United States.

1 **SEC. 17**\_\_\_\_. **ENGAGING FOREIGN PARTNERS TO STRENGTH-**  
2 **EN THE SECURITY OF CRITICAL UNDERSEA**  
3 **INFRASTRUCTURE.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
5 gress that—

6 (1) as international critical undersea infrastruc-  
7 ture expands, there are increasing challenges to the  
8 proper installation, maintenance, repair, and protec-  
9 tion of international subsea cables that have the po-  
10 tential to undermine United States and foreign part-  
11 ner national security interests;

12 (2) the United States is uniquely positioned to  
13 provide technical, material, and other forms of sup-  
14 port to international partners to enhance the resil-  
15 ience of international critical undersea infrastruc-  
16 ture;

17 (3) the United States Government should en-  
18 hance its diplomatic efforts to work alongside trust-  
19 ed allies to help foreign governments improve efforts  
20 to quickly and effectively install, maintain, repair,  
21 and protect international critical undersea infra-  
22 structure; and

23 (4) given the importance of critical undersea in-  
24 frastructure to United States and allied energy secu-  
25 rity and prosperity, adversaries are increasingly

1 prioritizing capabilities designed to target United  
2 States and allied subsea energy infrastructure.

3 (b) COMMITMENT OF PERSONNEL AND RE-  
4 SOURCES.—The Secretary of State shall devote sufficient  
5 personnel and resources towards—

6 (1) engaging with foreign countries, in coordi-  
7 nation with other relevant Federal agencies, to im-  
8 prove security and reduce barriers to the installa-  
9 tion, monitoring, maintenance, and repair of critical  
10 undersea infrastructure; and

11 (2) working with allies and partners to improve  
12 response times to address critical undersea infra-  
13 structure sabotage, including, as appropriate, by im-  
14 proving the coordination of cable repair vessel de-  
15 ployments.

16 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
17 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for  
18 the next 5 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination  
19 with other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the  
20 appropriate congressional committees a report that out-  
21 lines efforts by the United States Government in the prior  
22 calendar year to work with international allies and part-  
23 ners to strengthen the security of and reduce barriers to  
24 the monitoring, maintenance, repair, and protection of  
25 critical undersea infrastructure, including—



1 (b) ASSIGNMENT.—The Bureau for Cyberspace and  
2 Digital Policy may not dual-hat currently employed per-  
3 sonnel in meeting the minimum hiring requirement out-  
4 lined in subsection (a).

5 (c) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days after ful-  
6 filling the hiring requirement in subsection (a), the Sec-  
7 retary of State shall notify the Committee on Foreign Re-  
8 lations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Af-  
9 fairs of the House of Representatives.

10 (d) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON CRITICAL UN-  
11 DERSEA INFRASTRUCTURE SABOTAGE.—Not later than  
12 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
13 Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congres-  
14 sional committees a report on how the United States Gov-  
15 ernment plans to prioritize diplomatic engagement within  
16 relevant international bodies to spur increased information  
17 sharing between allied and partner governments and rel-  
18 evant private sector companies regarding threats to, and  
19 the sabotage of, critical undersea infrastructure.

20 **SEC. 19. IMPROVING UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CO-**  
21 **ORDINATION OF SUBSEA COMMUNICATIONS**  
22 **INFRASTRUCTURE.**

23 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
24 ings:

1           (1) According to a December 2024 Department  
2 of Homeland Security white paper, “There currently  
3 exists no forum in which the full scope of the  
4 [subsea] cable industry can effectively collaborate  
5 with the U.S. government to identify and address  
6 shared challenges.”.

7           (2) United States Federal Government respon-  
8 sibilities for the protection of subsea communications  
9 infrastructure, damage reporting, information and  
10 intelligence sharing, and emergency response are  
11 overseen by various government actors through a  
12 multitude of mechanisms spanning several Federal  
13 departments and agencies.

14           (3) In order for the subsea cable industry to  
15 align with United States economic and security in-  
16 terests and help industry prepare security risk miti-  
17 gation measures, the United States Government  
18 must provide the industry a clearer concept of oper-  
19 ations, assessed risks to cable supply chain and in-  
20 frastructure, enhanced and standardized security  
21 measures, defined lines of effort in cases of emer-  
22 gency, and definitive cost analysis.

23           (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than one year after  
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall  
25 establish an interagency committee (referred to in this

1 subtitle as the “interagency committee”) comprised of the  
2 heads of the appropriate Federal agencies, or their des-  
3 ignees, to lead United States Government efforts to—

4 (1) protect and improve the resilience of subsea  
5 communications infrastructure;

6 (2) effectively collaborate with non-Federal enti-  
7 ties, including relevant members of the subsea cable  
8 industry, to identify and address shared challenges  
9 to subsea communications infrastructure security  
10 and resilience;

11 (3) coordinate United States Government poli-  
12 cies to improve subsea communications infrastruc-  
13 ture security and resilience; and

14 (4) address other matters related to subsea  
15 communications infrastructure deemed appropriate  
16 and necessary by the President.

17 (c) COORDINATION.—The President shall direct the  
18 interagency committee to conduct an overview of the  
19 United States Federal Government’s operational authori-  
20 ties for subsea communications infrastructure security and  
21 resilience. The overview shall include an interagency con-  
22 cept of operations for partnering with non-Federal enti-  
23 ties, including subsea communications infrastructure own-  
24 ers and operators, to secure and repair subsea communica-

1 tions infrastructure systems in a variety of crisis sce-  
2 narios; and

3 (d) ANALYSIS OF SUBSEA COMMUNICATIONS INFRA-  
4 STRUCTURE SABOTAGE.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall direct  
6 the heads of the appropriate Federal agencies to de-  
7 velop strategies to coordinate closely within the  
8 interagency process and with subsea communications  
9 infrastructure industry stakeholders to review sabo-  
10 tage and other threats to subsea communications in-  
11 frastructure, including by leveraging analysis from  
12 industry-wide data, to—

13 (A) identify trends;

14 (B) refine attributions, particularly in  
15 cases of subsea communications infrastructure  
16 sabotage;

17 (C) identify high-risk geographic areas for  
18 subsea communications infrastructure construc-  
19 tion;

20 (D) identify Federal Government functions  
21 and private sector engagement methods to sup-  
22 port the security of subsea communications in-  
23 frastructure; and

1 (E) inform future risk mitigation efforts to  
2 reduce damage to subsea communications infra-  
3 structure.

4 (2) STRATEGY ELEMENTS.—The strategies re-  
5 quired under paragraph (1) shall include—

6 (A) resourcing requirements;

7 (B) coordination with United States allies  
8 and partners and relevant subsea communica-  
9 tions infrastructure industry stakeholders; and

10 (C) the necessary technical expertise to  
11 make attributions for subsea communications  
12 infrastructure sabotage.

13 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after estab-  
14 lishing the required interagency committee under sub-  
15 section (b), the President shall submit to Congress a re-  
16 port that includes the following elements:

17 (1) Any resources required to sufficiently staff  
18 the interagency committee and United States Fed-  
19 eral agencies overseeing the objectives outlined in  
20 subsection (b).

21 (2) A detailed plan for how the interagency  
22 committee will advance the objectives outlined in  
23 subsection (b).

24 **SEC. 20. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this subtitle:

1           (1) The term “agency” has the meaning given  
2 the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States  
3 Code.

4           (2) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
5 mittees” means—

6                 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
7 and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
8 Senate; and

9                 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
10 the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
11 of Representatives.

12           (3) The term “appropriate Federal agencies”  
13 means the following:

14                 (A) The Department of Commerce.

15                 (B) The Department of Defense.

16                 (C) The Department of Homeland Secu-  
17 rity.

18                 (D) The Office of the Director of National  
19 Intelligence.

20                 (E) The Department of State.

21                 (F) The Federal Communications Commis-  
22 sion.

23                 (G) The Department of the Treasury.

24                 (H) The Department of Justice.

1 (I) Any additional Federal agencies, as de-  
2 termined by the President.

3 (4) The term “critical undersea infrastructure”  
4 refers to both subsea communications infrastructure  
5 and subsea energy infrastructure.

6 (5) The term “non-Federal entity” means any  
7 nongovernmental entity that is an individual, organi-  
8 zation, or business involved in the operation, mainte-  
9 nance, repair, or construction of critical undersea in-  
10 frastructure, including critical undersea infrastruc-  
11 ture owners.

12 (6) The term “sabotage” means actions, or  
13 preparations for future actions, taken with the in-  
14 tent to cause defective production, operation, or  
15 damage to critical underseas infrastructure, includ-  
16 ing the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of  
17 data transmitted via subsea communications infra-  
18 structure.

19 (7) The term “subsea energy infrastructure”  
20 means a subsea cable, pipeline, or other equipment  
21 installed on, beneath, or within the seabed, includ-  
22 ing—

23 (A) to transmit electricity, including via  
24 subsea electricity cables, subsea electricity

1 transformers, or equipment related to the sup-  
2 port of offshore energy production installations;

3 (B) to transport natural gas, oil, or hydro-  
4 gen between land-based or off-shore infrastruc-  
5 ture; and

6 (C) associated landing stations and facili-  
7 ties.

8 (8) The term “subsea communications infra-  
9 structure” has the same meaning as “submarine  
10 cable system”, as defined in section 1.70001(h) of  
11 title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, and any sub-  
12 sequent update to such meaning.

