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1ST SESSION

H. R. 2503

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

AN ACT

To require the development of a strategy to eliminate the availability to foreign adversaries of goods and technologies capable of supporting undersea cables, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Undersea Cable Con-
3 trol Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO ELIMINATE THE AVAILABILITY TO**
5 **FOREIGN ADVERSARIES OF ITEMS REQUIRED**
6 **FOR SUPPORTING UNDERSEA CABLES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting through the
8 Secretary of Commerce and in coordination with the Sec-
9 retary of State, shall develop a strategy to eliminate the
10 availability to foreign adversaries of items required for
11 supporting undersea cables consistent with United States
12 policy described in section 1752 of the Export Control Re-
13 form Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4811).

14 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy re-
15 quired under subsection (a) shall include the following:

16 (1) An identification of items required for sup-
17 porting the construction, maintenance, or operation
18 of an undersea cable project.

19 (2) An identification of United States and mul-
20 tilateral export controls and licensing policies for
21 items identified pursuant to paragraph (1) with re-
22 spect to foreign adversaries.

23 (3) An identification of United States allies and
24 partners that have a share of the global market with
25 respect to the items so identified, including a de-
26 tailed description of the availability of such items

1 without restriction in sufficient quantities and com-
2 parable in quality to those produced in the United
3 States.

4 (4) A description of ongoing negotiations with
5 other countries to achieve unified export controls
6 and licensing policies for items so identified to elimi-
7 nate availability to foreign adversaries.

8 (5) To the extent practicable, an identification
9 of all identified entities under the control, ownership,
10 or influence of a foreign adversary that support the
11 construction, operation, or maintenance of undersea
12 cables.

13 (6) A description of efforts taken to promote
14 United States leadership at international standards-
15 setting bodies for equipment, systems, software, and
16 virtually defined networks relevant to undersea ca-
17 bles, taking into account the different processes fol-
18 lowed by such bodies.

19 (7) A description of the presence and activities
20 of foreign adversaries at international standards-set-
21 ting bodies relevant to undersea cables, including in-
22 formation on the differences in the scope and scale
23 of the engagement of foreign adversaries at such
24 bodies compared to engagement at such bodies by
25 the United States and its allies and partners, and

1 the security risks raised by the proposals of foreign
2 adversaries at such bodies.

3 (c) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act and an-
6 nually thereafter for 3 years, the President shall
7 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
8 a report that contains the strategy required under
9 subsection (a).

10 (2) FORM.—Each report required under this
11 subsection shall—

12 (A) be submitted in unclassified form, but
13 may contain a classified annex; and

14 (B) be made available on a publicly acces-
15 sible Federal Government website.

16 (d) AGREEMENT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
19 shall seek to—

20 (A) establish bilateral or multilateral
21 agreements with allies and partners identified
22 pursuant to subsection (b)(3) to seek to elimi-
23 nate the availability to foreign adversaries of
24 items identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1);
25 and

1 (B) include in such agreements penalty
2 provisions for noncompliance.

3 (2) BRIEFINGS.—The President shall brief the
4 congressional committees specified in subsection
5 (c)(1) on negotiations to establish agreements de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1) beginning not later than 30
7 days after receipt of the report required under sub-
8 section (a) and every 180 days thereafter until each
9 such agreement is established.

10 (e) ACTIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce
12 shall evaluate the export, reexport, and in-country
13 transfer of the items identified pursuant to sub-
14 section (b)(1) for appropriate controls under the Ex-
15 port Administration Regulations, including by evalu-
16 ating, for each item so identified, whether to add the
17 technology to the Commerce Control List maintained
18 under title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

19 (2) LEVELS OF CONTROL.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—In determining the
21 level of control appropriate for items identified
22 pursuant to subsection (b)(1), including re-
23 quirements for a license or other authorization
24 for the export, reexport, or in-country transfer
25 of any such technology, the Secretary of Com-

merce (in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate) shall take into account the potential end uses and end users of the item.

(B) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—At a minimum, it is the policy of the United States to work with its allies and partners to control the export, reexport, or in-country transfer of technologies identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1) to or in a country subject to an embargo, including an arms embargo, imposed by the United States.

(3) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the President, acting through the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an unclassified notification describing the results of actions taken pursuant to this subsection in the preceding period, including a description of—

(A) the individual items evaluated for controls; and

(B) the rationale, including United States national security and foreign policy consider-

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

12 (B) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
13 and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(3) ITEM.—The term “item” has the meaning given such term in the Export Administration Regulations (15 CFR 772.1).

Attest: KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Clerk.