



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Transportation & Maritime Security Subcommittee Ranking Member LaMonica McIver (D-NJ)

Securing Global Communications: An Examination of Foreign Adversary Threats to Subsea Cable Infrastructure **November 20, 2025**

Subsea cables are critical to U.S. national security, the global economy, and the daily lives of people around the globe, as they carry approximately 99 percent of the world's intercontinental internet traffic.

The extent to which we all rely on the data traveling through these cables is almost hard to fathom. For example, every day, an estimated \$22 trillion of financial transactions are processed through subsea cables. Internet traffic is only expected to increase in the coming decades, as the global economy turns increasingly digital.

The demand for increased internet capacity will require the installation of hundreds of thousands of miles of new subsea cables, which must be protected from both accidental damage and intentional sabotage. Failing to invest in subsea cable infrastructure could cede market control to global competitors and adversaries. Likewise, failing to adequately protect these cables could lead to significant adverse impacts to the U.S. economy and national security.

Already, Russia, China, and other actors have shown a willingness and ability to target subsea cables, as several cable breaks have been attributed to them over the past few years. In addition, the development of autonomous undersea vehicles may decrease the costs of attacks, while the costs of cable repairs remains high. As the U.S. formulates strategies to mitigate threats posed to subsea cables, the Department of Homeland Security must play a central role.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA [Siss-uh], serves as the Sector Risk Management Agency for both the communications and information technology sectors, each of which play a role in the subsea cable environment.

Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard maintains responsibilities for maritime law enforcement and domain awareness in U.S. waters. DHS—and the U.S. government as a whole—must seek opportunities to increase its ability to deter, detect, and respond to threats to these cables.

I look forward to hearing proposals from our witnesses for how the United States can address these pressing security issues.

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