



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subcommittee Hearing Statement of Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)

***Securing Global Communications: An Examination of Foreign Adversary Threats to
Subsea Cable Infrastructure***

November 20, 2025

Subsea cables serve as the backbone for nearly all global commerce and communication, carrying 99% of the world's data traffic.

For the United States, this infrastructure is vital to national security and economic interests, supporting an estimated \$9 trillion worth of trade every day. Dependency on subsea cables continues to increase as demand for internet traffic capacity grows. Despite their important function, subsea cables are a vulnerable component of our infrastructure.

While most damage to subsea cables is accidental, caused primarily by fishing and anchoring, the threat of deliberate sabotage by state and non-state actors is of growing concern due to recent incidents and geopolitical tensions.

The past few years have seen China and Russia investing in capabilities required to target subsea infrastructure, and each has been implicated in recent incidents in which subsea cables were sabotaged.

Disruptions to subsea cables can have widespread impacts on internet traffic capacity. Subsea cable disruptions are also very costly to repair, with costs ranging from \$1.5 million to \$24 million per repair.

As the United States seeks to compete in the increasingly digital global economy, we must ensure subsea cables are secure and disruptions are minimized. The U.S. must develop a strategic approach to protecting subsea cables that addresses both cyber and physical security threats.

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