



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

February 11, 2026
(House)

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 261 – Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025

(Rep. Carter, R-GA, and seven cosponsors)

The Administration supports passage of H.R. 261, the Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025, which would eliminate duplicative permitting laws and strengthen national security and global connectivity by safeguarding the United States' submarine cable infrastructure. Specifically, the bill would prohibit the Department of Commerce from requiring any additional permit or authorization for the installation, continued presence, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of an undersea fiber optic cable in a national marine sanctuary if such activities have previously been authorized by a Federal or State agency.

Undersea telecommunications cables facilitate 99 percent of transoceanic digital communications, including financial transactions. As a result, attacks and inadvertent damage to undersea cables can pose significant national security and economic risk. This bill would promote the deployment and maintenance of undersea cables by eliminating duplicative permitting laws and it supports the Administration's historic deregulation effort. For these reasons, the Administration supports passage of H.R. 261.

If H.R. 261 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he sign it into law.

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