

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend section 1362 of title 18, United States Code, to address vandalism of copper, fiber, and coaxial cables used to provide telecommunications and broadband internet access services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend section 1362 of title 18, United States Code, to address vandalism of copper, fiber, and coaxial cables used to provide telecommunications and broadband internet access services.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Combating Critical In-
5 frastructure Vandalism Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMUNICATION LINES, STATIONS, OR SYSTEMS.**

7 Section 1362 of title 18, United States Code, is
8 amended—

1 (1) by striking “Whoever willfully or maliciously
2 injures or destroys” and inserting the following:

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful to—

4 “(1) willfully or maliciously injure or destroy”;

5 (2) in subsection (a), as so designated—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) by striking “interferes” and insert-
8 ing “interfere”;

9 (ii) by striking “obstructs, hinders, or
10 delays” and inserting “obstruct, hinder, or
11 delay”;

12 (iii) by striking “attempts or con-
13 spires” and inserting “attempt or con-
14 spire”; and

15 (iv) by striking “, shall be fined under
16 this title or imprisoned not more than ten
17 years, or both.” and inserting the fol-
18 lowing: “; or

19 “(2) willfully or maliciously injure, destroy, or
20 steal, or attempt or conspire to injure, destroy, or
21 steal, any copper, fiber, or coaxial cable used to pro-
22 vide telecommunications services (as defined in sec-
23 tion 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
24 U.S.C. 153) or broadband internet access services
25 (as defined in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of

1 Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation)
2 that is used in or affects interstate or foreign com-
3 merce, whether constructed or in the process of con-
4 struction.”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2), as so designated, by
6 striking “In the case of any works” and insert-
7 ing the following:

8 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—

9 “(1) CERTAIN LAWFUL CONCERTED ACTIVI-
10 TIES.—In the case of any works”;

11 (3) in subsection (b), as so designated, by add-
12 ing at the end the following:

13 “(2) CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a)(2)
15 shall not apply to customer premises equip-
16 ment.

17 “(B) CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT
18 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘customer
19 premises equipment’ means equipment phys-
20 ically located on a customer’s property that is
21 owned, rented, or leased by the customer.”; and
22 (4) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(c) PENALTY.—Any person in violation of sub-
24 section (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not
25 more than 10 years, or both.”.