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October 27, 2015

The Honorable James R. Clapper
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20511

Dear Director Clapper:

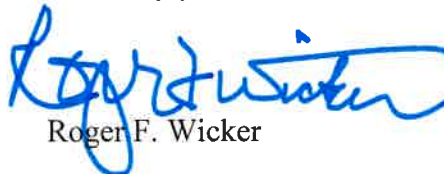
As chairman of both the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications, I write to request that the appropriate intelligence agencies provide me with a classified briefing on threats to undersea cables that carry global Internet communications.

On October 25, the *New York Times* published an article about the threat posed by Russian submarines and spy ships that are aggressively operating near vital communications cables. Earlier this year, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford told the Senate Armed Services Committee that "Russia presents the greatest threat to our national security." Accordingly, I am gravely concerned about Russia's capability and willingness to attack these undersea cables in times of tension or conflict.

Secure and reliable Internet communications are critical to U.S. national security and global commerce. A classified briefing from our intelligence agencies will assist the oversight responsibilities of my subcommittees and assist the Congress in developing appropriate responses to potential threats to our undersea communications cables.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Roger F. Wicker