



May 26, 2006

Dear Friends:

Earlier this week, this nation was shocked to learned of the theft of Social Security numbers and other personal information, including medical information, of a reported 26.5 million veterans – nearly every living veteran and some family members of veterans. As we celebrate Memorial Day this Monday, all Americans will pay tribute to those men and women who have died in military service for their country, we are confronted with the serious mismanagement of the Veterans Administration (VA), which waited 19 days to report the theft of this crucial information. To ensure that the financial well-being of our nation's veterans is not damaged as a result of this crime, I have cosponsored the *Veterans Identity Protection Act of 2006* (H.R. 5455). Read my full statement [regarding the theft of information from the VA](#).

In honor of Memorial Day, read my special message [remembering the fallen and protecting our veterans](#).

In March we were reminded of the potential environmental consequences of drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) when an Alaskan pipeline leaked 200,000 gallons of crude oil. This was the largest spill ever in the North Slope region and a timely caution against opening the Arctic Refuge to drilling. This week the Republican Majority passed a bill that would open this national treasure to industrial development. Read my full statement [opposing drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#).

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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