vulnerable to debt for which they had no responsibility.

According to a recent survey by the Better Business Bureau, in 2004, 9.3 million Americans were victims of identity theft. It is clear that every day the number of Americans at risk of suffering identity theft is increasing, as more and more companies disclose that criminals have gained access to their massive databases of sensitive consumer information. A perfect example is the recent reporting of identity theft by DWS of thousands of its customers.

Yet this bill does nothing to address the very real problem of identity theft. Under this legislation, victims of identity theft would, in many cases, be held accountable for the debt accrued by someone else.

In short, the bill favors credit card companies at the expense of hard-working Americans, veterans, and victims of identity theft. For all these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Chairman, those of us who come from coal-producing states, like Illinois, believe that DOE's fossil energy research and development program is very important to the future of coal utilization. Over the years, the coal R&D program of the Department of Energy has been broad-based and has led to many of the combustion and gasification technologies now in use. These technologies represent both environmental and energy-efficiency improvements over the technologies they have replaced. In last year's energy bill passed by the House, Science Chairman BOEHLERT and I reached agreement on a set of coal programs of research, development and demonstration priorities for the next decade. We also agreed that the authorizations for the coal programs set out in what are now sections 963, 965 and 967 should be at least 60 percent of the total authorization in section 968(a). The agreed-upon language from last year has been omitted from the version of H.R. 6 before us today. The requirement that at least 60 percent of fossil energy research and development funds be spent on coal remains in the Committee on Science's report, but not in the H.R. 6 bill language. There, the traditional categories of coal research funding are removed and replaced with a series of objectives, which are consistent with the roadmap for these programs developed by the Department in conjunction with industry. Therefore, it is my assumption and will be my position going forward into Conference that the intent of the House of Representatives towards coal research and development has not changed. We still favor a fossil R&D program that allocates at least the historical 60 percent of funds to coal R&D and that the House is not mandating significant structural changes in the program that we set out in last year's version of H.R. 6.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, my colleague from Illinois, Mr. COSTELLO, has made a statement which points out that the language of H.R. 6, Energy Policy Act of 2005, unlike last year, does not include a provision requiring that 60 percent or more of the total fossil energy research and development budget be allocated to coal research and development. This allocation is the position of the Committee on Science as set out in its report on H.R. 6. In conference, I will be happy to support and work towards including the 60 percent or more funding language in the conference text of H.R. 6.