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Aid poor nations

If the lack of regulation and accountability has caused the topsy-turvy track on which the financial markets are riding, perhaps it's the lack of regulation and accountability that's caused the lack of progress in reducing global poverty.

In 1996, the Government Accountability Office said that due to the approach used by the U. S. Agency for International Aid in tracking the funding given to child health programs, it was not possible to determine how much was spent. In 2007, the GAO said virtually the same thing.

I'm a strong supporter of increasing funding to development programs, but I'm equally strong in not wanting my tax dollars wasted.

In 2000, the United States and 188 other countries proclaimed their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a set of eight goals with specific, measurable targets and indicators.

Along with other developed nations, the U.S. government promised to provide funding equal to 0.7 percent of GDP to programs focused on fulfilling those goals.

The best estimate is the U.S. government is allocating only 0.16 percent of GDP. Our foreign aid should be increased and held accountable to achieving measurable results in increasing health, education, and economic opportunities in less-developed countries.

Jim Driggers
Concord