

Reverend Martin Gustus

149 King Charles Road
Columbia, SC 29209
803 776-9839
ram3922@yahoo.com



To: The Honorable Senator Darrell Jackson
From: Reverend Martin Gustus
Date: January 23, 2017

I am writing to request your help and assistance in securing the cost of an energy-powered generator for my home. First, please permit me to introduce myself as Martin Gustus, retired Pastor and self-employed businessman for many years in the state of New York. Upon my retirement, my wife and I decided to relocate and return to our beloved home state, South Carolina.

Approximately 4, years ago my health began to decline as I was diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and I must rely on an electric oxygen machine twenty-four hours a day. Also, I have been battling with diabetes for several years and have to self-administer insulin shots of Novolon 3 times daily to control my sugar levels. Then approximately two years ago I was diagnosed with prostate cancer for which I have to receive injections monthly to control my PSA levels. I am sure that you will agree that these are major health challenges and it is very expensive and difficult to maintain adequate treatment and healthcare.

A generator is needed because during the past 2 years, we have experienced some extremely unpredictable and unseasonable weather. Each time we have strong winds, heavy rains, sleet, tornado threats, and ice accumulation, my home and others in my neighborhood have experienced frequent power outages. Each time we experience a power outage, my wife or I will contact our energy company, South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G), and each time they give us the same response that there is very little or nothing they can do about it. There are times when we are without electrical power for 2 days and this can be very detrimental to my health. As I mentioned earlier, my COPD condition requires that I rely on oxygen on a permanent basis, therefore when the power outages occur, I am forced to struggle to get to my car to recharge and power up my oxygen machine. My wife and I had to make a life and death decision to tap into our now depleted savings to purchase a home generator. We really felt we had no other choice or options.

We are asking that you carefully consider our situation and offer some supportive assistance in this matter. We are afraid of the rising costs of health care and maintaining adequate medical supplies to live. We are people of great faith and we believe that you will make a concerted effort to help us.

Please feel free to contact me should you need any additional information or have any questions.

Respectfully yours,

Rev. Martin Gustus

Martin Gustus