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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJGCA Lauds Christie Administration Generator Grant Program for Gas Stations

*\$7 million grant program result of a partnership with Department of Homeland Security
Eligible stations on evacuation routes may qualify for up to \$65,000 in grant funding*

Sal Risalvato, Executive Director of the New Jersey Gasoline, Convenience, Automotive Association (**NJGCA**), released the following statement today after Governor Christie announced a \$7 million grant program that allows gas stations on or near evacuation routes to access funding for back-up generators:

"I would like to take this opportunity to applaud Governor Christie and his administration, in partnership with the US Department of Homeland Security, for creating a generous \$7 million grant program which will allow certain gasoline retailers to equip their stations with back-up generator connections and/or to purchase and install an onsite generator."

This program, outlined yesterday in a press release from the Governor's Office, makes up to \$65,000 in grants available to retail stations with a fuel storage capacity greater than 35,000 gallons, which are located along evacuation routes.

"These amounts indicate that the Governor and his staff understand the true cost of installing a back-up generator at a gasoline retail station," Risalvato said. "I myself have been astounded at times to learn that some of my members have received quotes over \$70,000 to install a backup generator."

"These generators are so expensive because the systems that operate the gas pumps are extremely sensitive to receiving the proper electrical supply in the proper manner. The pumps and the operating systems could be seriously damaged if the power supply is interrupted or changed. While many people have the misperception that all you need is an 'off-the-shelf' Home Depot generator and an extension cord, that is simply not the case," Risalvato explained.

Risalvato continued, "You may recall that I have said repeatedly in the past, 'Even if every gas station had a back-up generator installed two years before Superstorm Sandy, we still would have experienced the exact same gas lines. The generators would not have prevented or solved anything...' This is because retail gas stations were unable to obtain deliveries of gasoline due to the damage at the terminals and refineries in Northern New Jersey."

"However," Risalvato said, "Governor Christie and his staff have recognized this critical issue, and the Governor addressed it in his press release yesterday, stating, 'By working with homeland security experts, we will make New Jersey's fuel supply and distribution systems more resilient, ensuring a more reliable source of fuel when needed.'"

Risalvato concluded, "On their own, back-up generators could not prevent gas lines in the future, but working in conjunction with the Governor's plan to ensure that our gasoline retailers are able to obtain gasoline quickly after a storm, I am confident that this generator grant program will help to avoid the gas lines that consumers were faced with in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. The Governor has proven that he is educated about these issues and he is taking the necessary steps to protect our citizens in a way that is still business-friendly. NJGCA looks forward to continuing to work with Governor Christie and his staff to ensure that New Jersey citizens and small businesses continue their recovery and are better prepared in case of another storm in the future."

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