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**Policy Statement: Non-Purchase of Aggregated Food/Products to Support Local Producers**

At Nourish Louisiana, our dedication to ethical sourcing and supporting local producers is paramount to our mission. In line with our commitment to transparency and equitable practices, we unequivocally declare our policy against purchasing aggregated food or products. Specifically, we aim to procure products directly from the producer, processor, or cooperative they originate from. Foods must be produced within the state or within 400 miles of the delivery destination to support local, regional, and socially disadvantaged producers.

**Definition of Aggregated Food/Products:**

Aggregated food/products refer to goods that are sourced or obtained through the bundling or combining of multiple products from different sources into a single supply for purchase or distribution.

**Our Stance:**

Nourish Louisiana recognizes the vital importance of supporting local and regional producers. Therefore, we firmly affirm that we will not procure or purchase any food or products that have been aggregated from various sources. Additionally, we prioritize exclusively sourcing foods produced within the state or within a 400-mile radius of the delivery destination to bolster local, regional, and underserved producers.

**Reasoning:**

1. Supporting Local and Regional Producers: We aim to strengthen local and regional economies by sourcing products that are produced nearby, encouraging sustainability, and supporting socially disadvantaged producers within our community.
2. Quality Assurance and Traceability: Foods produced within proximity often maintain higher quality standards and provide better traceability, ensuring the integrity and safety of the products we procure.
3. Reducing Environmental Impact: Sourcing products from nearby areas reduces transportation emissions, contributing positively to environmental sustainability and supporting a smaller carbon footprint.

**Impact on Procurement:**

Nourish Louisiana will not procure or include aggregated food or products in our inventory. Instead, we prioritize establishing direct relationships with local and regional producers to ensure the procurement of distinct, locally sourced products.

**Conclusion:**

At Nourish Louisiana, our commitment to promoting local and regional sustainability remains resolute. This policy serves as a guideline to ensure fairness, transparency, and robust support for local, regional, and underserved producers within our procurement practices.

**Effective Date:** This policy on non-purchase of aggregated food/products to support local producers is effective immediately upon issuance of this statement (November 13, 2023).