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Local Tribes Oppose Casino Expansion

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) - Two local northeast Kansas tribes are backing efforts by Kansas to block the Quapaw Tribe from expanding its Downstream Casino in Oklahoma into southeast Kansas.

The state and Cherokee County argued in a filing Wednesday that the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska should be allowed to intervene in the lawsuit.

Both tribes contend they have significant competitive interests in the outcome of the litigation initiated by Kansas. Both operate casinos, and claim there is a "real threat" of tribes outside of Kansas coming into the state to open up casinos and compete with them.

Kansas says those tribes will demonstrate in joining the lawsuit that Indian-law issues are more complex than suggested by the Quapaw Tribe and the United States.

Associated Press