Kickapoo Tribal Chairman To Testify Against Bill

Kickapoo Tribal Chairman Steve Cadue will appear before a Kansas legislative committee Wednesday to testify against a bill that would provide state funding to fight a lawsuit filed by the tribe over construction of the proposed Plum Creek Reservoir project.

Nemaha-Brown Watershed District #7 is seeking relief from legal fees and costs associated with the federal lawsuit filed by the Kickapoo Tribe in 2006.

Cadue will appear before the House Judiciary Committee Wednesday afternoon to voice his opposition to House Bill 2553, which would require the state to pay the watershed district's costs associated with the lawsuit.

Tribal officials say they believe the costs should be the responsibility of the watershed district and not the taxpayers of Kansas.

In March of last year, the watershed district board rejected a partial settlement agreement in the case.

Last fall the Kansas Attorney General's office withdrew any more state funding for the watershed district in the litigation.

The Kickapoo Tribe continues to seek a resolution through the court.