

US top court upholds \$270 million award to smokers

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The US Supreme Court rejected an appeal request made by American tobacco companies on Monday in a class-action lawsuit that awarded 500,000 smokers a total of \$270 million in damages.

Without comment, the highest US court dismissed the appeal of a 2009 Louisiana court decision that ruled the tobacco companies must pay hundreds of millions for programs to help the [smokers](#) quit.

The tobacco companies contested the lawsuit and argued that the [class-action lawsuit](#) brought together a number of disparate and individual complaints that spanned more than 50 years.

They said that by allowing the class-action suit, the companies were deprived of their right to investigate the individual plaintiffs and they could not all prove that they had suffered harm.

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