

Communication from Public

Name: Sean A

Date Submitted: 08/06/2026 08:11 PM

Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: As a tenant and former landlord in Los Angeles, I call on the Los Angeles City Council to vote to ban Ratio Utility Billing Systems, or RUBS, in all housing across this city. Landlords who charge tenants for utilities through RUBS are systematically violating the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the Tenant Protection Act. Ratio Utility Billing Systems subject tenants to bogus charges and allow landlords to get away with fraud. Imagine paying a costly bill for something you didn't actually use. That, essentially, is the failure that is RUBS. RUBS also poses challenges to consumer protections, dissuades landlords from investing in environmentally-friendly infrastructure or making basic repairs to address waste, and allows landlords to put huge junk fees and other costly fees on our utility bills. This needs to end now. Tenants have the right to transparency, but existing law gives us no way to enforce that right. I urge you to support Debt Collective's proposal for stronger action by the City Council on RUBS.

Communication from Public

Name: Alexander Scott
Date Submitted: 08/06/2026 08:15 PM
Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: I am a staff attorney with the California Center for Movement Legal Services. In this role I have represented many tenants in buildings where their landlord uses the Ratio Utility Billing System (RUBS) to calculate utilities charges. This experience has made it clear that many landlords are using RUBS to systematically violate the Rent Stabilization Ordinance and the Tenant Protection Act. It is because the many well-documented and well-publicized examples of the illegal charges that landlords are able to pass onto their tenants using RUBs that the Los Angeles Housing Department has recommended that RUBS be banned for buildings covered by the RSO. This proposal, while welcome, does not go far enough. The City has the authority to ban RUBS for all tenants in Los Angeles, not just those living in RSO buildings. RUBS clearly violates basic consumer protections laws that all tenants are entitled to, and no tenant should be required to be subjected to hidden rent increases and bogus charges through RUBS. In addition, RUBS dissuades landlords from investing in environmentally-friendly infrastructure or making basic repairs to address waste, and allows landlords to put huge junk fees and other costly fees on our utility bills. This needs to end now. Tenants have the right to transparency, but existing law gives us no way to enforce that right. I urge you to support Debt Collective's proposal for stronger action by the City Council on RUBS.