

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Anne Butler

Date Submitted: 06/15/2026 06:21 PM

Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: As a tenant 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. 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: Leah Hubbard

Date Submitted: 06/15/2026 11:30 AM

Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: As a tenant 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. Residents in my building are paying over \$500 in utilities each month without knowing where it goes. 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 - our neighbors go out of town for a month and come back to utility bills that are higher than when they are home. Our water bill went from \$115 to \$15 to \$175 over a 3-month span - this erratic billing also makes it challenging for tenants to budget each month and makes us question how our bills are being calculated. 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. Regarding the City's climate goals, without an LADWP account in our name, we cannot participate in incentive programs such as Community Solar or Power Savers through our smart thermostats. And not being able to see our actual usage each month does not incentivize tenants to limit their electric and water use, considering they know a large bill is likely coming anyways. Tenants have the right to transparency, but existing law gives us no way to enforce that right. Tenants like me are especially at risk living in non-RSO buildings - we deserve tenant protections just as much as any other renter in this city. We need an enforcement tool and policies that will allow tenants to dispute charges without the risk of eviction. I urge you to support Debt Collective's proposal for stronger action by the City Council on RUBS.