

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 08/04/2026 04:19 PM

Council File No: 22-0178

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Keep LA Housed Coalition, I call on the Los Angeles City Council to vote to ban Ratio Utility Billing Systems, or RUBS, in all rental housing across the 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. Our organization endorses the Debt Collective's proposal for stronger action by the City Council on RUBS. We strongly urge the Committee to adopt their proposals. As a Coalition that has played a historic role in fighting for tenant rights in LA, we see the importance of this proposal.