Electronic Supplementary Information

## Sulfate encapsulation in three-fold interpenetrated metal-organic frameworks with bis(pyridylurea) ligands

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## Experimental



Figure S1. TGA curve of compound 1.



*Figure S2.* TGA curve of compound 2.

*Figure S3.* TGA curve of compound **3**.

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*Figure S4.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of  $L^5$ .



*Figure S5.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **1**.



*Figure S6.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR Spectrum of **2**.

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*Figure S7.* <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of **3**.



Figure S8. Molecular plot of 1 with atomic labeling. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Selected bond lengths (Å) and angles (°): Zn–N1, 2.216(1); Zn–N6B,<sup>b</sup> 2.176(1); Zn–O7, 2.127(1); O7–Zn–N1, 88.23(5); N1–Zn–N1A<sup>a</sup>, 84.14(8); N6B<sup>b</sup>–Zn–N6C<sup>c</sup>, 85.56(7); N6C<sup>c</sup>–Zn–N1 95.16(6); O7–Zn–N1A<sup>a</sup>
92.26(5); N6B<sup>b</sup>–Zn–N1 178.64(5); O7–Zn–N6B<sup>b</sup>, 90.63(5); O7–Zn–N6C<sup>c</sup>, 88.89(5). Symmetry code: <sup>a</sup> 1–x, y, 0.5–z, <sup>b</sup> 1.5+x, 0.5+y, 0.5–z; <sup>c</sup> –x–0.5, y+0.5, z.



*Figure S9.* (a) Ellipsoidal cavities in the 3-fold interpenetrated structure of **1** with sulfate ions encapsulated in the cavities; (b) Side view of the interpenetrated bilayer structure of **1**.



Figure S10. The layered structure of 1 packed in a repeating ABAB sequence.



*Figure S11.* Ellipsoidal cavities in the 3-fold interpenetrated structure of **3**. The ligands are color coded to show that each belongs to a different independent network. Symmetry code of sulfate: 1–x, y, 0.5–z,

D–H···A	Н…А	D····A	∠D–H…A
N2-H2B…O3	2.11	2.916(2)	156.8
N3-H3B…O3	2.15	2.941(3)	153.6
N4–H4A…O6 <sup><i>a</i></sup>	2.14	2.906(7)	148.2
N4–H4A…O4	2.17	3.002(7)	164.2
N5-H5B…O5	2.12	2.869(4)	145.4
N5-H5B····O4 <sup>a</sup>	2.14	2.962(5)	159.7
N2-H2B…O5	2.56	3.221(4)	134.3

**Table S1.** Hydrogen bonding parameters (Å, °) for  $SO_4^{2-}$  binding by the urea groups in **1**.

<sup>*a*</sup> symmetry code: x–0.5, y–0.5, 0.5–z.

Table S2. Hydrogen bonding parameters (Å, °) in 2.

D–H…A	Н…А	D…A	∠D−H…A
O7–H7D…O8	1.82(3)	2.651(3)	175(4)
O7-H7C…O2	1.94(3)	2.741(3)	169(4)
O8-H8D…O1	1.87(3)	2.760(3)	174(4)

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O8-H8C…O4	1.97(3)	2.884(10)	163(4)			
O8-H8C…O6	1.80(3)	2.734(12)	175(4)			
N2-H2B…O3	2.09	2.908(3)	157.9			
N3-H3B…O3	2.19	2.977(3)	152.3			
N4–H4A…O4	2.19	3.036(10)	168.0			
N4-H4A…O6	2.11	2.890(11)	150.8			
N5-H5B…O5	2.10	2.872(5)	148.3			

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D–H…A	Н…А	D····A	∠D−H…A
01-H1C…07	1.81(2)	2.646(4)	174.6
O7-H701···O5	2.11(5)	2.926(7)	161.4
O7-H701…O5A	1.89(4)	2.733(12)	173.4
N2-H2…O4	2.31	3.071(4)	147.7
N2-H2…O6	2.32	3.114(7)	153.8
N3-H3…O4	2.11	2.905(5)	153.2
N4-H4…O5	2.08	2.929(7)	170.2
N4-H4…O5A	2.06	2.893(12)	162.9
N5-H5…O5	2.34	3.084(8)	144.7
N5-H5…O6	2.10	2.937(7)	163.5

Table S3. Hydrogen bonding parameters (Å, °) in 3.

## Anion competitive crystallization experiments

A solution of 68.4 mg (0.2 mmol) of L in 10 mL of MeOH was added to an aqueous solution (5 mL) containing  $ZnSO_4$  (0.1 mmol), NaCl (0.2 mmol), NaNO<sub>3</sub> (0.2 mmol), and NaClO<sub>4</sub> (0.2 mmol). The resulting solution was stirred at room temperature and allowed to evaporate slowly. After one week, colorless crystals were collected and washed with water, ethanol and ether. The FT-IR spectrum and powder X-ray diffraction pattern of the product were identical with those of **1**.



Figure S12. FT-IR spectra of 1 (black) and the solid crystallized in the presence of the anionic mixture (red).

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Figure S14. FT-IR spectrum of 3.