Dear Editor,

Thank you for the referee comments for our manuscript (ID: CP-ART-06-2025-002478). Our detailed replies keep the original comments in black, which are followed by our responses in blue. All changes made to the main manuscript file and Supplementary Information are highlighted in yellow.

In addition to the changes made in response to the reviewers’ comments, we have added a co-author who was inadvertently omitted from the previous version; this co-author conducted the isotopically labeled experiments, the results of which are crucial in supporting the conclusions of this work. We have also included the *Author contributions* section after the *Conclusion*.

We are confident that this revised version will make for an excellent publication in *Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics*. However, if additional changes are required, we would be happy to do so.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Ralf

Ralf I. Kaiser

University of Hawaii at Mānoa, Department of Chemistry,

Bilger Hall, Room 301,

2545 McCarthy Mall,

Honolulu, HI 96822-2275

Phone: (808)956-5731

Email: ralfk@hawaii.edu

Fax: (808)956-5908