

**The authors would like to thank the referees for their time reviewing this manuscript. Edits suggested by referee #2 are reflected in the following document in bold.**

Line 198 – 203: in their response to referees the authors refer to Figure 7 in Schwantes et al.. Figure 7 shows that OH-abstraction from the CH<sub>2</sub>O group in benzaldehyde leads to C6 compounds. Here, the authors claim that OH-addition leads to C6 compounds referring to Schwantes et al. This is not correct. Furthermore, I cannot follow how the mechanism described in this section by the authors should lead to phenol.

**Thank you for your feedback. We have corrected the text to accurately reflect that Schwantes et al. indicates formation of C6 compounds from OH-abstraction from the CH<sub>2</sub>O group. We have also updated Figure 1 to reflect both potential C6-formation pathways as described in Schwantes et al. and Wang 2015. We hope that this and additional clarifying language helps make this section easier to follow.**

Line 226: upper yield of HBA looks more like 80±9%

**We have updated the yield for the time reported in the text.**

Figure H1: the font size should be increased

**We increased the text size.**

Line 182: delete “as well”

**Deleted.**