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## Supporting Information for:

### Understanding Thio-Effects in Simple Phosphoryl Systems: Role of Solvent Assistance and Nucleophile Charge

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**Table S1: Breakdown of Different Contributions to the Total Calculated Free Energies for the Different Reactions Examined in This Work<sup>a</sup>**

| System                         | $\Delta E_{\text{gas}}$ | $\Delta\Delta G_{\text{solv}}$ | $\Delta ZPE$ | $-T\Delta S$ | $\Delta G_{\text{calc}}$ | $\Delta G_{\text{exp}}$ |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Water Reaction</b>          |                         |                                |              |              |                          |                         |
| <i>Phosphodichloridate</i>     |                         |                                |              |              |                          |                         |
| Reactant State                 | 0.0                     | 0.0                            | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0                      |                         |
| Transition State               | 32.7                    | -13.8                          | 0.6          | 3.0          | 22.5                     | 20.5                    |
| Product State                  | 80.0                    | -77.0                          | 1.7          | 1.0          | 5.7                      |                         |
| <i>Thiophosphodichloridate</i> |                         |                                |              |              |                          |                         |
| Reactant State                 | 0.0                     | 0.0                            | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0                      |                         |
| Transition State               | 35.4                    | -14.7                          | 0.5          | 2.7          | 23.9                     | 20.8                    |
| Product State                  | 79.4                    | -76.2                          | 1.3          | 1.0          | 5.5                      |                         |
| <b>Hydroxide Reaction</b>      |                         |                                |              |              |                          |                         |
| <i>Phosphodichloridate</i>     |                         |                                |              |              |                          |                         |
| Reactant State                 | 0.0                     | 0.0                            | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0                      |                         |
| Transition State               | -3.6                    | 17.9                           | 0.1          | 2.4          | 16.8                     | 19.2                    |
| Product State                  | -60.5                   | 23.8                           | 2.3          | 0.5          | -34.0                    |                         |
| <i>Thiophosphodichloridate</i> |                         |                                |              |              |                          |                         |
| Reactant State                 | 0.0                     | 0.0                            | 0.0          | 0.0          | 0.0                      |                         |
| Transition State               | -2.1                    | 20.3                           | -0.7         | 1.6          | 19.1                     | >21.2                   |
| Product State                  | -54.1                   | 19.5                           | 2.3          | 1.1          | -31.2                    |                         |

<sup>a</sup> All energies are given in kcal/mol, normalized relative to the reactant complex.  $\Delta E_{\text{gas}}$  denotes the gas-phase energy of the system obtained by performing single point calculations in vacuum,  $\Delta\Delta G_{\text{solv}}$  denotes the contribution from including implicit solvation,  $\Delta ZPE$  and  $-T\Delta S$  denotes the differences in zero-point energies and entropies calculated from the vibrational frequencies, and  $\Delta G_{\text{calc}}$  and  $\Delta G_{\text{exp}}$  denote calculated and experimental activation and reaction free energies respectively.

**Table S2: Absolute energies for all key stationary points involved in the hydrolysis of phosphodichloridates 1 and 2 by water and hydroxide nucleophiles.<sup>a</sup>**

| <b>System</b>                  | <b>E<sub>el</sub> (a.u.)</b> | <b>E<sub>ZPE</sub> (kcal/mol)</b> | <b>S (kcal/mol/K<sup>-1</sup>)</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Water Reaction</b>          |                              |                                   |                                    |
| <i>Phosphodichloridate</i>     |                              |                                   |                                    |
| Reactant State                 | -1641.7841620                | 53.50848                          | 120.785                            |
| Transition State               | -1641.7539374                | 54.08691                          | 110.657                            |
| Product State                  | -1641.7798808                | 55.21652                          | 117.340                            |
| <i>Thiophosphodichloridate</i> |                              |                                   |                                    |
| Reactant State                 | -1964.7320745                | 52.38140                          | 123.104                            |
| Transition State               | -1964.6991038                | 52.91553                          | 113.955                            |
| Product State                  | -1964.7269412                | 53.70855                          | 119.771                            |
| <b>Hydroxide Reaction</b>      |                              |                                   |                                    |
| <i>Phosphodichloridate</i>     |                              |                                   |                                    |
| Reactant State                 | -1641.2903666                | 44.58200                          | 118.732                            |
| Transition State               | -1641.2791418                | 44.43013                          | 111.669                            |
| Product State                  | -1641.3604718                | 46.93260                          | 116.812                            |
| <i>Thiophosphodichloridate</i> |                              |                                   |                                    |
| Reactant State                 | -1964.2385996                | 43.24047                          | 121.140                            |
| Transition State               | -1964.2211342                | 42.85152                          | 115.626                            |
| Product State                  | -1964.3053846                | 45.60506                          | 117.578                            |

<sup>a</sup> Shown here are the absolute atomic energy (E<sub>el</sub>, in atomic unites), zero-point energy contribution (E<sub>ZPE</sub> in kcal/mol) and entropies (S, in cal/mol/K<sup>-1</sup>) for all relevant stationary points.

## Cartesian Coordinates of Key Stationary Points

### Water Reaction

#### *Phosphodichloridate*

##### Reactant State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | -0.229603 | -0.510021 | -0.273870 |
| O  | -0.171703 | 0.811871  | -0.978063 |
| Cl | -0.092342 | -0.134164 | 1.748625  |
| Cl | -2.155840 | -1.211398 | -0.427523 |
| O  | 0.707334  | -1.629172 | -0.593730 |
| O  | 2.432650  | 1.917049  | -0.405852 |
| H  | 1.505389  | 1.740972  | -0.651804 |
| H  | 2.822306  | 1.021451  | -0.310222 |
| H  | 3.562733  | -0.901826 | 0.759541  |
| O  | 3.366513  | -0.749634 | -0.178401 |
| H  | 2.497714  | -1.177290 | -0.326171 |
| H  | -2.754285 | 2.329363  | 0.048516  |
| O  | -1.920504 | 2.818448  | -0.029944 |
| H  | -1.285044 | 2.163706  | -0.382618 |

##### Transition State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | 0.160178  | -0.029551 | 0.440039  |
| O  | -0.746460 | -0.974018 | 1.161450  |
| Cl | 0.246934  | -0.369961 | -1.598337 |
| Cl | -1.758755 | 1.529002  | -0.026807 |
| O  | 1.001017  | 1.111978  | 0.907757  |
| O  | 1.690066  | -1.249267 | 0.649075  |
| H  | 1.611860  | -2.126216 | 0.228442  |
| H  | 2.532052  | -0.806918 | 0.321075  |
| H  | 3.703006  | 0.438697  | -1.035945 |
| O  | 3.620271  | 0.390197  | -0.069177 |
| H  | 3.009355  | 1.113974  | 0.167623  |
| H  | -3.314607 | -0.359589 | -0.259807 |
| O  | -3.291524 | -1.298977 | -0.005385 |
| H  | -2.430339 | -1.359675 | 0.455732  |

### Product State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | 0.880249  | 0.331862  | -0.461395 |
| O  | -0.068746 | 1.483141  | -0.577728 |
| Cl | 0.327005  | -0.734454 | 1.233104  |
| Cl | -4.114497 | -0.868363 | -0.348870 |
| O  | 1.133782  | -0.654289 | -1.551014 |
| O  | 2.356842  | 0.889468  | -0.009854 |
| H  | 2.349201  | 1.639107  | 0.616854  |
| H  | 3.535537  | -0.057552 | 0.082730  |
| H  | 4.313842  | -1.191185 | 0.966583  |
| O  | 4.316299  | -0.735370 | 0.097579  |
| H  | 4.142618  | -1.417887 | -0.586475 |
| H  | -3.038531 | 0.849921  | 0.446243  |
| O  | -2.543267 | 1.624574  | 0.794014  |
| H  | -1.678311 | 1.587367  | 0.339020  |

### *Thiophosphodichloridate*

#### Reactant State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | -0.596390 | -0.296260 | -0.226839 |
| O  | -0.043907 | 0.815739  | -1.077636 |
| Cl | -0.062219 | 0.167344  | 1.731209  |
| Cl | -2.640748 | 0.022104  | -0.108540 |
| S  | -0.209584 | -2.168164 | -0.620776 |
| O  | 2.769726  | 1.153982  | -0.679532 |
| H  | 1.825585  | 1.133331  | -0.927015 |
| H  | 2.938262  | 0.252449  | -0.332597 |
| H  | 2.991444  | -1.427636 | 1.242819  |
| O  | 3.036440  | -1.501179 | 0.275634  |
| H  | 2.157435  | -1.835041 | 0.014903  |
| H  | 1.073683  | 3.541174  | 0.030541  |
| O  | 0.142863  | 3.491912  | -0.237088 |
| H  | 0.022244  | 2.566004  | -0.530043 |

#### Transition State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | -0.028702 | 0.140672  | -0.403378 |
| O  | 0.868299  | -0.435504 | -1.460364 |
| Cl | -0.146113 | -1.074568 | 1.291651  |
| Cl | 1.983886  | 1.199827  | 0.722644  |
| S  | -1.095928 | 1.783414  | -0.378665 |
| O  | -1.554531 | -0.942054 | -1.128966 |
| H  | -1.331315 | -1.888276 | -1.229832 |
| H  | -2.386832 | -0.884431 | -0.562499 |
| H  | -3.503448 | -1.022111 | 1.280183  |
| O  | -3.654370 | -0.578309 | 0.428613  |
| H  | -3.586203 | 0.371045  | 0.629878  |
| H  | 3.357472  | -0.746555 | 0.140387  |
| O  | 3.303237  | -1.464401 | -0.515346 |
| H  | 2.472484  | -1.241631 | -0.983321 |

### Product State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | -0.734456 | -0.172678 | -0.519355 |
| O  | 0.106421  | -1.098066 | -1.353929 |
| Cl | -0.346010 | -0.700194 | 1.473660  |
| Cl | 3.942182  | 0.902942  | 0.479445  |
| S  | -0.712125 | 1.764095  | -0.723476 |
| O  | -2.304141 | -0.682852 | -0.626525 |
| H  | -2.390386 | -1.652186 | -0.737996 |
| H  | -3.445907 | -0.098978 | 0.199998  |
| H  | -4.074996 | 0.151929  | 1.689959  |
| O  | -4.223666 | 0.319858  | 0.734300  |
| H  | -4.187827 | 1.292796  | 0.606576  |
| H  | 3.106620  | -0.972020 | -0.236039 |
| O  | 2.727276  | -1.816424 | -0.567081 |
| H  | 1.821283  | -1.583739 | -0.853453 |

### **Hydroxide Reaction**

#### *Phosphodichloridate*

### Reactant State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | 0.177679  | -0.480142 | -0.075243 |
| Cl | 2.047199  | -1.350195 | -0.225516 |
| O  | -0.830776 | -1.575692 | 0.018472  |
| O  | 0.108501  | 0.607906  | -1.098414 |
| Cl | 0.324471  | 0.416960  | 1.779881  |
| O  | -3.010484 | 1.336234  | 0.475990  |
| H  | -2.586052 | 0.920696  | 1.241695  |
| O  | -3.277158 | -0.561821 | -1.218432 |
| H  | -3.174499 | 0.207950  | -0.530580 |
| H  | -2.505383 | -1.124141 | -1.032787 |
| H  | 2.949495  | 2.076116  | -1.109358 |
| O  | 2.124474  | 2.578604  | -1.025611 |
| H  | 1.416399  | 1.904645  | -1.080574 |

### Transition State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | 0.129755  | 0.106783  | -0.236097 |
| Cl | -1.751848 | 0.168680  | -1.340514 |
| O  | 1.095455  | 0.353538  | -1.349690 |
| O  | -0.099033 | -1.151467 | 0.548583  |
| Cl | -0.290542 | 1.825037  | 0.844859  |
| O  | 2.143991  | 0.177630  | 1.187512  |
| H  | 2.523933  | 1.054148  | 1.023577  |
| O  | 3.255006  | -1.446545 | -0.424028 |
| H  | 2.827078  | -0.770991 | 0.240406  |
| H  | 2.744844  | -1.300230 | -1.235979 |
| H  | -3.237872 | -1.509733 | 0.602882  |
| O  | -2.684811 | -1.852265 | 1.321974  |
| H  | -1.768536 | -1.615252 | 1.061897  |

### Product State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | -0.986583 | 0.319017  | -0.352868 |
| Cl | 3.853119  | -1.167862 | -0.131195 |
| O  | -1.100792 | -1.091630 | -0.859138 |
| O  | -0.087593 | 1.328716  | -1.005162 |
| Cl | -0.333942 | 0.172492  | 1.631729  |
| O  | -2.440405 | 0.973090  | -0.164068 |
| H  | -3.129515 | 0.263695  | -0.052096 |
| O  | -3.823918 | -1.354130 | -0.056665 |
| H  | -4.484057 | -1.414901 | -0.765816 |
| H  | -2.999800 | -1.712481 | -0.441819 |
| H  | 2.966603  | 0.817787  | -0.183670 |
| O  | 2.574838  | 1.719078  | -0.202791 |
| H  | 1.642441  | 1.580942  | -0.470088 |

### *Thiophosphodichloridate*

#### Reactant State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | 0.145967  | -0.587930 | -0.221967 |
| Cl | 2.030210  | -1.472231 | -0.216804 |
| O  | -0.849592 | -1.696344 | -0.381888 |
| S  | 0.139040  | 0.973865  | -1.402222 |
| Cl | 0.060668  | 0.009603  | 1.768624  |
| O  | -2.997907 | 1.763960  | 0.204304  |
| H  | -2.091494 | 1.813912  | -0.138047 |
| O  | -3.578425 | -0.720399 | -0.137430 |
| H  | -3.335938 | 0.275090  | -0.003117 |
| H  | -2.720584 | -1.169754 | -0.243868 |
| H  | 3.438115  | 1.645383  | 0.233024  |
| O  | 2.767192  | 2.344145  | 0.287226  |
| H  | 2.020695  | 2.006242  | -0.241569 |

#### Transition State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | -0.198651 | 0.219382  | 0.188336  |
| Cl | 1.744554  | 0.823394  | 1.038825  |
| O  | -1.003003 | 0.195026  | 1.453650  |
| S  | 0.321191  | -1.319989 | -0.932796 |
| Cl | -0.405503 | 2.036958  | -0.824155 |
| O  | -2.474131 | -0.067569 | -0.865838 |
| H  | -2.927744 | 0.731760  | -0.555078 |
| O  | -3.040488 | -1.854113 | 0.832205  |
| H  | -2.814533 | -1.118026 | 0.121738  |
| H  | -2.416750 | -1.651020 | 1.546787  |
| H  | 3.868928  | -0.975076 | 0.256433  |
| O  | 3.607932  | -1.568274 | -0.465153 |
| H  | 2.644436  | -1.425081 | -0.558472 |

Product State

|    |           |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| P  | -0.916204 | 0.371619  | -0.020681 |
| Cl | 3.474632  | -1.179188 | 0.300395  |
| O  | -0.200068 | -0.610765 | -0.913107 |
| S  | -0.286763 | 2.227800  | 0.139734  |
| Cl | -0.918347 | -0.527195 | 1.890236  |
| O  | -2.498449 | 0.362996  | -0.329460 |
| H  | -2.768488 | -0.529709 | -0.684823 |
| O  | -2.577564 | -2.140164 | -1.343455 |
| H  | -2.962208 | -2.158842 | -2.234514 |
| H  | -1.619943 | -1.998290 | -1.479645 |
| H  | 2.777469  | 0.439100  | -0.951053 |
| O  | 2.497957  | 1.203425  | -1.505201 |
| H  | 1.672592  | 1.513234  | -1.086440 |