

## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

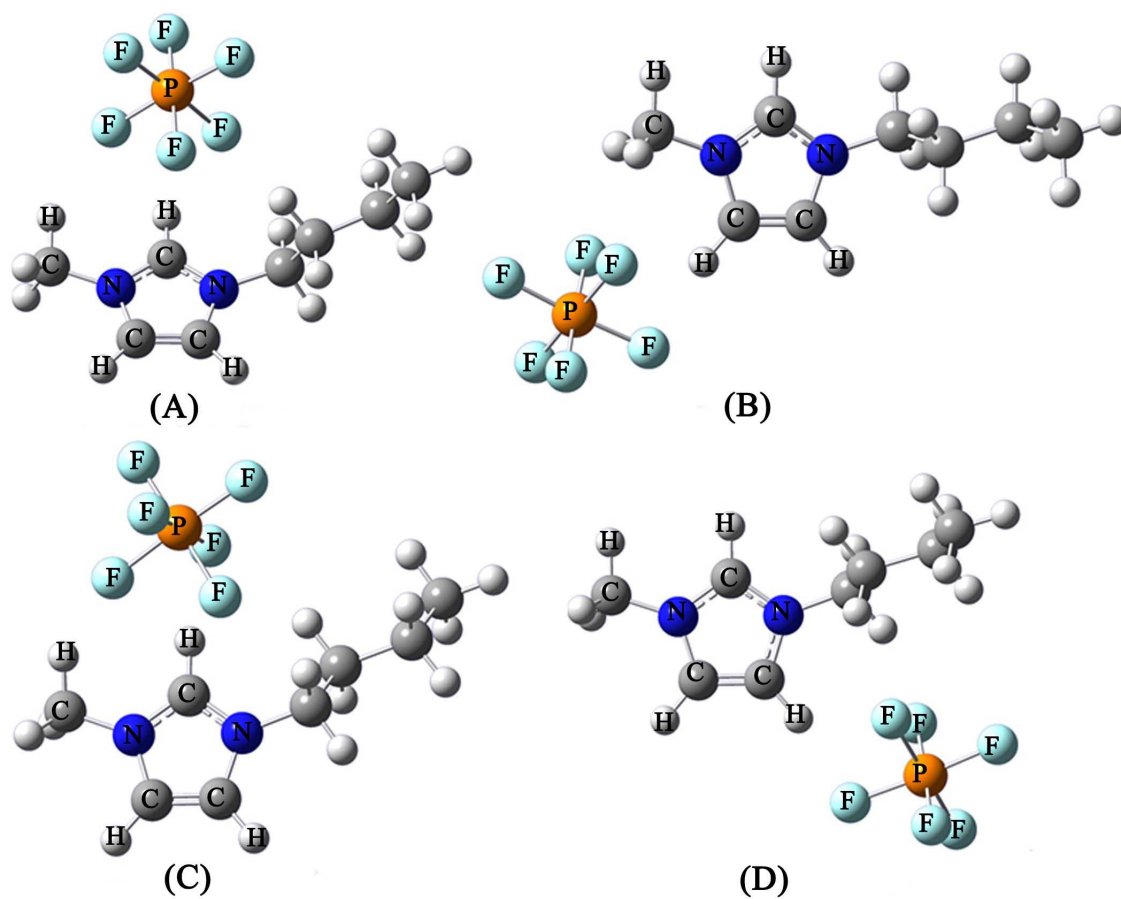
### **Theoretical Study on the Mechanism of Oxidative-Extractive Desulfurization in Imidazolium-Based Ionic Liquid**

P. Yuan,<sup>a\*</sup> T. T. Zhang,<sup>a</sup> A. F. Cai,<sup>a</sup> C. S. Cui,<sup>a</sup> H. Y. Liu,<sup>a</sup> X. J. Bao<sup>b\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup>State Key Laboratory of Heavy Oil Processing, China University of Petroleum,  
Beijing 102249, China

<sup>b</sup>The Key Laboratory of Catalysis, China University of Petroleum, Beijing 102249,  
China

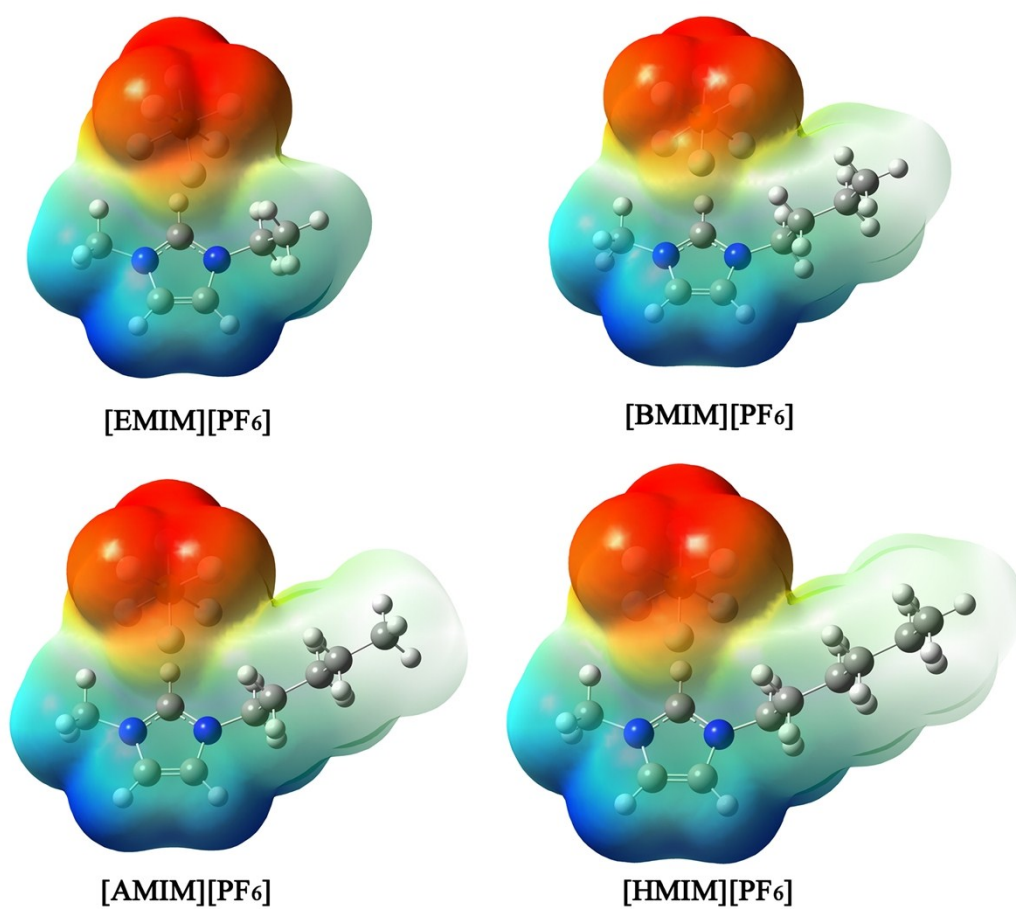
\*Email: yuanpei@cup.edu.cn; baoxj@cup.edu.cn



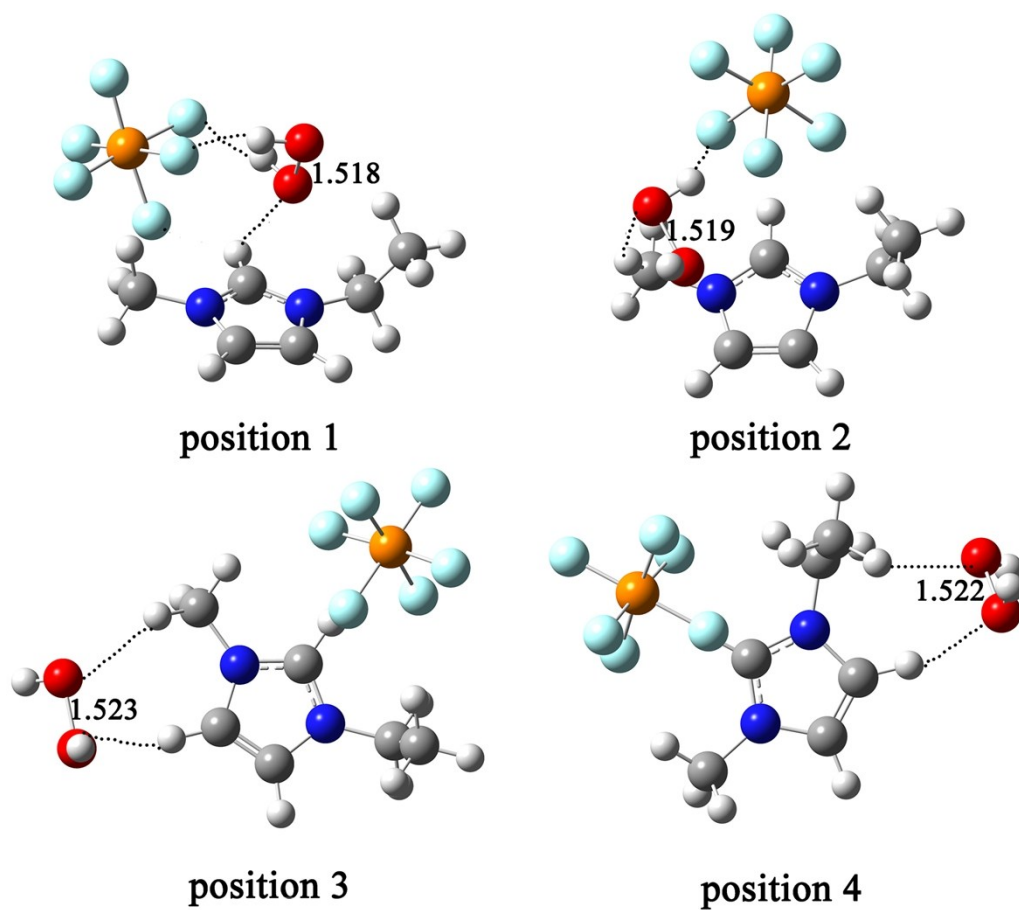
**Fig. S1.** The different possible structures of  $[\text{BMIM}][\text{PF}_6]$  calculated at B3LYP/6-311++G (d, p) level.

**Table S1.** The optimized interaction energies of ILs with different alkyl side chains to the imidazolium ring at B3LYP/6-311++G(d, p) level.

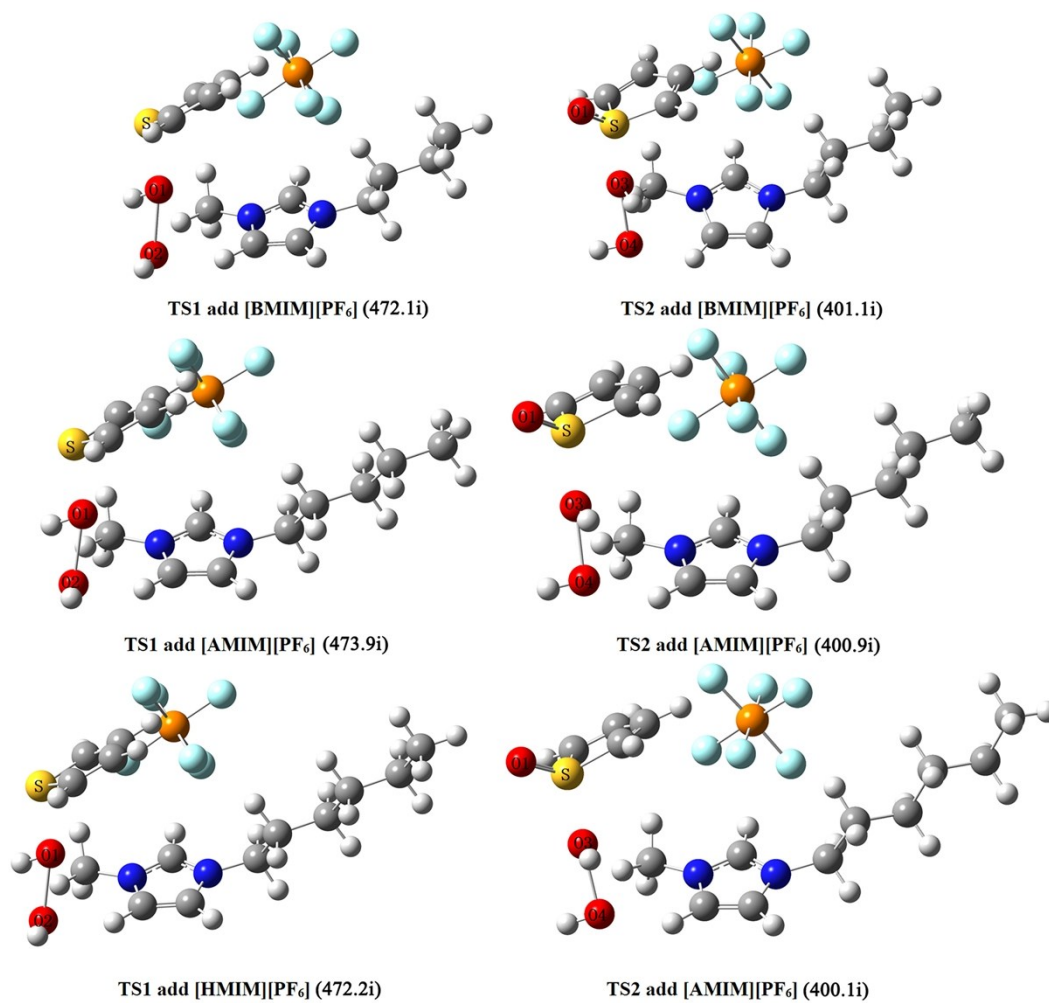
	[EMIM][PF <sub>6</sub> ]		[BMIM][PF <sub>6</sub> ]			[AMIM][PF <sub>6</sub> ]	[HMIM][PF <sub>6</sub> ]
Structure	(A)	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(A)	(A)
$\Delta E$ (kJ/mol)	-318.8	-316.9	-283.0	-312.7	-285.6	-316.2	-311.2



**Fig. S2.** Electrostatic potential surface of ILs. (The red area represents the negative charge region and the blue area presents the positive charge region and the deeper the color, the greater the charge density.)



**Fig. S3.** Four possible geometries of the complex between [EMIM][PF<sub>6</sub>] and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>. Distances of O-O bond are given in angstroms.



**Fig. S4.** The transition states for the oxidation process of TH to SP by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in the presence of ILs with different alkyl side chains to the imidazolium ring. The values in parentheses denote the imaginary frequencies of the transition states.