SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## Energy vs. density on paths toward exact density functionals

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Figure S1. PBE/aug-cc-p $\omega$ CV5Z density near the nucleus of B<sup>+</sup>, compared to the best exponential fit, showing the effect of Gaussian basis functions on the density.





Figure S2. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, B<sup>+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)

Figure S3. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, B<sup>3+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)





Figure S4. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, C<sup>2+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)

Figure S5. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, C<sup>4+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)





Figure S6. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, N<sup>3+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)

Figure S7. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, N<sup>5+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)





Figure S8. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, O<sup>4+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)

Figure S9. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, O<sup>6+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)





Figure S10. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, F<sup>5+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)

Figure S11. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, F<sup>7+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)





Figure S12. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, Ne<sup>6+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)

Figure S13. The six density difference plots of the four studied density functionals, Ne<sup>8+</sup> ion. (aug-cc-pωCV5Z)



Figure S14. Average  $\Delta E_D' = E(\rho)-E(\rho')$  in kJ/mol for two test sets: (A) Top: B3LYP, PBE, SVWN, and M06; (B) bottom: PBE, M06-2X, PBE0, and SVWN, using the other three functional's densities as trial densities. The functionals represent very different densities in terms of previous ranking for these systems<sup>[1]</sup>. The computed energies are the experimentally known double ionization potentials discussed in the main text. Despite the energies being many eVs, these changes in densities affect the computed energies by only < 1.5 kJ/mol, i.e. the density variations manifest below chemical accuracy; such systems are referred to as "practically normal".



C2+1C4+ N3+1N5+ 04+106+ 55+1F1+ NE6+1NE8+

0.0

8×183×

Figure S15. Difference between the ionization potentials computed by a given density functional using its own density and other densities: A) M06; B) B3LYP; C) PBE; D) SVWN.



Table S1. Computed B3LYP and PBE energies (a.u.) of ions similar to those studied previously<sup>[1,2]</sup> (aug-cc-p $\omega$ CV5Z basis set). The IP values refer to the energy of removing both 2s electrons in kJ/mol. Experimental data from NIST<sup>[3]</sup>.

|                                    | B3LYP             |                     |          | PBE               |                     |          | Experiment |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|------------|
|                                    | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | (NIST)     |
| B <sup>+</sup> /B <sup>3+</sup>    | -24.3298          | -22.0132            | 6082.30  | -24.2934          | -21.9820            | 6068.65  | 6086.9     |
| C <sup>2+</sup> /C <sup>4+</sup>   | -36.5024          | -32.3792            | 10825.34 | -36.4610          | -32.3442            | 10808.71 | 10843.3    |
| N <sup>3+</sup> /N <sup>5+</sup>   | -51.1753          | -44.7448            | 16883.32 | -51.1303          | -44.7063            | 16866.41 | 16920.3    |
| O <sup>4+</sup> /O <sup>6+</sup>   | -68.3483          | -59.1104            | 24253.99 | -68.3006          | -59.0686            | 24238.68 | 24316.4    |
| F <sup>5+</sup> /F <sup>7+</sup>   | -88.0210          | -75.4758            | 32937.47 | -87.9713          | -75.4308            | 32925.06 | 33032.3    |
| Ne <sup>6+</sup> /Ne <sup>8+</sup> | -110.1936         | -93.8411            | 42933.43 | -110.1422         | -93.7930            | 42924.89 | 43068.7    |

Table S2. Computed SVWN and M06 energies (a.u.) of ions similar to those studied previously<sup>[1,2]</sup> (aug-cc-p $\omega$ CV5Z basis set). The IP values refer to the energy of removing both 2s electrons in kJ/mol.

|                                    | SVWN              |                     |          | M06               |                     |          |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|
|                                    | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       |
| B <sup>+</sup> /B <sup>3+</sup>    | -24.0382          | -21.7432            | 6025.72  | -24.3340          | -22.0492            | 5998.70  |
| C <sup>2+</sup> /C <sup>4+</sup>   | -36.1300          | -32.0395            | 10739.70 | -36.5087          | -32.4265            | 10717.78 |
| N <sup>3+</sup> /N <sup>5+</sup>   | -50.7211          | -44.3342            | 16768.75 | -51.1843          | -44.8034            | 16753.11 |
| O <sup>4+</sup> /O <sup>6+</sup>   | -67.8112          | -58.6282            | 24109.87 | -68.3598          | -59.1802            | 24101.01 |
| F <sup>5+</sup> /F <sup>7+</sup>   | -87.4003          | -74.9213            | 32763.70 | -88.0353          | -75.5567            | 32762.41 |
| Ne <sup>6+</sup> /Ne <sup>8+</sup> | -109.4886         | -93.2137            | 42729.73 | -110.2103         | -93.9331            | 42735.76 |

Table S3. Computed PBE, B3LYP, and M06 energies (a.u.) using the optimized SVWN densities of ions similar to those studied previously<sup>[1,2]</sup> (aug-cc-pωCV5Z basis set). The IP values refer to the energy of removing both 2s electrons in kJ/mol.

|                                    | PBE(SVWN)         | PBE(SVWN)           |          |                          | B3LYP(SVWN)         |          |                          | M06(SVWN)           |          |  |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|--|--|
|                                    | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | <b>X</b> <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | <b>X</b> <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       |  |  |
| B <sup>+</sup> /B <sup>3+</sup>    | -24.2920          | -21.9808            | 6067.93  | -24.3283                 | -22.0119            | 6081.62  | -24.3312                 | -22.0469            | 5997.38  |  |  |
| C <sup>2+</sup> /C <sup>4+</sup>   | -36.4595          | -32.3430            | 10807.96 | -36.5008                 | -32.3779            | 10824.60 | -36.5061                 | -32.4243            | 10716.77 |  |  |
| N <sup>3+</sup> /N <sup>5+</sup>   | -51.1288          | -44.7050            | 16865.60 | -51.1737                 | -44.7435            | 16882.52 | -51.1818                 | -44.8012            | 16752.17 |  |  |
| O <sup>4+</sup> /O <sup>6+</sup>   | -68.2990          | -59.0673            | 24237.79 | -68.3466                 | -59.1091            | 24253.13 | -68.3574                 | -59.1780            | 24100.35 |  |  |
| F <sup>5+</sup> /F <sup>7+</sup>   | -87.9696          | -75.4295            | 32924.12 | -88.0193                 | -75.4744            | 32936.57 | -88.0327                 | -75.5546            | 32761.41 |  |  |
| Ne <sup>6+</sup> /Ne <sup>8+</sup> | -110.1405         | -93.7917            | 42923.91 | -110.1919                | -93.8397            | 42932.50 | -110.2078                | -93.9309            | 42734.88 |  |  |

Table S4. Computed SVWN, B3LYP, and M06 energies (a.u.) using the optimized PBE densities of ions similar to those studied previously<sup>[1,2]</sup> (aug-cc-p $\omega$ CV5Z basis set). The IP values refer to the energy of removing both 2s electrons in kJ/mol.

|                                    | SVWN(PBE)         | SVWN(PBE)           |          |                   | B3LYP(PBE)          |          |                   | M06(PBE)            |          |  |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|--|--|
|                                    | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       |  |  |
| B <sup>+</sup> /B <sup>3+</sup>    | -24.0368          | -21.7420            | 6025.00  | -24.3296          | -22.0131            | 6081.93  | -24.3328          | -22.0482            | 5998.04  |  |  |
| C <sup>2+</sup> /C <sup>4+</sup>   | -36.1285          | -32.0383            | 10738.95 | -36.5022          | -32.3791            | 10825.06 | -36.5079          | -32.4257            | 10718.01 |  |  |
| N <sup>3+</sup> /N <sup>5+</sup>   | -50.7195          | -44.3330            | 16767.94 | -51.1751          | -44.7447            | 16883.10 | -51.1837          | -44.8026            | 16753.56 |  |  |
| O <sup>4+</sup> /O <sup>6+</sup>   | -67.8096          | -58.6269            | 24108.96 | -68.3481          | -59.1103            | 24253.80 | -68.3592          | -59.1794            | 24101.56 |  |  |
| F <sup>5+</sup> /F <sup>7+</sup>   | -87.3987          | -74.9200            | 32762.74 | -88.0209          | -75.4757            | 32937.34 | -88.0346          | -75.5560            | 32762.65 |  |  |
| Ne <sup>6+</sup> /Ne <sup>8+</sup> | -109.4869         | -93.2124            | 42728.76 | -110.1934         | -93.8410            | 42933.31 | -110.2096         | -93.9323            | 42736.07 |  |  |

Table S5. Computed SVWN, PBE, and M06 energies (a.u.) using the optimized B3LYP densities of ions similar to those studied previously<sup>[1,2]</sup> (aug-cc-p $\omega$ CV5Z basis set). The IP values refer to the energy of removing both 2s electrons in kJ/mol.

|                                    | SVWN(B3L)         | ′P)                 |          | PBE (B3LYP)       |                     |          | M06(B3LYP)        |                     |          |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|
|                                    | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | Х <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       |
| B <sup>+</sup> /B <sup>3+</sup>    | -24.0367          | -21.7419            | 6025.04  | -24.2932          | -21.9819            | 6068.30  | -24.3328          | -22.0484            | 5997.75  |
| C <sup>2+</sup> /C <sup>4+</sup>   | -36.1285          | -32.0382            | 10738.96 | -36.4608          | -32.3441            | 10808.44 | -36.5078          | -32.4259            | 10717.12 |
| N <sup>3+</sup> /N <sup>5+</sup>   | -50.7195          | -44.3329            | 16767.96 | -51.1302          | -44.7062            | 16866.19 | -51.1835          | -44.8028            | 16752.43 |
| O <sup>4+</sup> /O <sup>6+</sup>   | -67.8095          | -58.6269            | 24109.00 | -68.3004          | -59.0685            | 24238.51 | -68.3590          | -59.1797            | 24100.40 |
| F <sup>5+</sup> /F <sup>7+</sup>   | -87.3986          | -74.9199            | 32762.80 | -87.9711          | -75.4307            | 32924.92 | -88.0344          | -75.5563            | 32761.50 |
| Ne <sup>6+</sup> /Ne <sup>8+</sup> | -109.4868         | -93.2123            | 42728.80 | -110.1421         | -93.7929            | 42924.78 | -110.2095         | -93.9326            | 42734.98 |

Table S6. Computed B3LYP, PBE, and SVWN energies (a.u.) using the optimized M06 densities of ions similar to those studied previously<sup>[1,2]</sup> (aug-cc-p $\omega$ CV5Z basis set). The IP values refer to the energy of removing both 2s electrons in kJ/mol.

|                                    | B3LYP(M06         | )                   |          | PBE(M06)          |                     |          | SVWN(M06)         |                     |          |  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|----------|--|
|                                    | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       | X <sup>(n)+</sup> | X <sup>(n+2)+</sup> | IP       |  |
| B <sup>+</sup> /B <sup>3+</sup>    | -24.3285          | -22.0124            | 6081.01  | -24.2919          | -21.9810            | 6067.34  | -24.0350          | -21.7409            | 6023.15  |  |
| C <sup>2+</sup> /C <sup>4+</sup>   | -36.5013          | -32.3786            | 10824.23 | -36.4601          | -32.3433            | 10808.53 | -36.1273          | -32.0373            | 10738.20 |  |
| N <sup>3+</sup> /N <sup>5+</sup>   | -51.1744          | -44.7443            | 16882.25 | -51.1296          | -44.7055            | 16866.45 | -50.7183          | -44.3321            | 16766.96 |  |
| O <sup>4+</sup> /O <sup>6+</sup>   | -68.3473          | -59.1099            | 24252.88 | -68.2998          | -59.0678            | 24238.59 | -67.8082          | -58.6261            | 24107.62 |  |
| F <sup>5+</sup> /F <sup>7+</sup>   | -88.0202          | -75.4753            | 32936.38 | -87.9705          | -75.4300            | 32924.93 | -87.3978          | -74.9191            | 32762.76 |  |
| Ne <sup>6+</sup> /Ne <sup>8+</sup> | -110.1925         | -93.8407            | 42931.63 | -110.1413         | -93.7923            | 42924.41 | -109.4860         | -93.2115            | 42728.68 |  |

| ATOM | Exp. IP/eV | STATE X                         | STATE X⁺                       |
|------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Н    | 13.60      | <sup>2</sup> S <sup>1</sup> /2  |                                |
| He   | 24.59      | ${}^{1}S_{0}$                   | <sup>2</sup> S <sub>1/2</sub>  |
| Li   | 5.39       | <sup>2</sup> S <sup>1</sup> /2  | <sup>1</sup> S <sub>0</sub>    |
| Ве   | 9.32       | <sup>1</sup> S <sub>0</sub>     | <sup>2</sup> S <sub>1/2</sub>  |
| В    | 8.30       | <sup>2</sup> P° <sup>1</sup> /2 | <sup>1</sup> S <sub>0</sub>    |
| С    | 11.26      | <sup>3</sup> P <sub>0</sub>     | <sup>2</sup> P° <sub>1/2</sub> |
| Ν    | 14.53      | <sup>4</sup> S° <sup>3</sup> /2 | <sup>3</sup> P <sub>0</sub>    |
| 0    | 13.62      | <sup>3</sup> P <sub>2</sub>     | <sup>4</sup> S° <sub>3/2</sub> |
| F    | 17.42      | <sup>2</sup> P° <sup>3</sup> /2 | <sup>3</sup> P <sub>2</sub>    |
| Ne   | 21.56      | ${}^{1}S_{0}$                   | <sup>2</sup> P° <sub>3/2</sub> |

Table S7. Experimental ionization potentials and ground states of atoms and ions from NIST.

Table S8. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms (in kJ/mol), computed using CCSD(T) and CCSD, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set.

| ATOM |           | CCSD(T)   |         |           | CCSD      |         |
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
|      | х         | X+        | IP      | x         | X+        | IP      |
| Н    | -0.5000   | 0.0000    | 1312.74 | -0.5000   | 0.0000    | 1312.74 |
| He   | -2.9032   | -1.9999   | 2371.50 | -2.9032   | -1.9999   | 2371.50 |
| Li   | -7.4600   | -7.2622   | 519.15  | -7.4599   | -7.2622   | 519.07  |
| Ве   | -14.6463  | -14.3042  | 898.23  | -14.6458  | -14.3042  | 896.82  |
| В    | -24.6298  | -24.3255  | 799.01  | -24.6279  | -24.3249  | 795.64  |
| C    | -37.8195  | -37.4060  | 1085.58 | -37.8167  | -37.4043  | 1082.81 |
| N    | -54.5627  | -54.0284  | 1402.58 | -54.5594  | -54.0262  | 1399.85 |
| 0    | -75.0372  | -74.5384  | 1309.40 | -75.0329  | -74.5362  | 1304.06 |
| F    | -99.7000  | -99.0607  | 1678.73 | -99.6946  | -99.0577  | 1672.20 |
| Ne   | -128.9004 | -128.1074 | 2082.13 | -128.8939 | -128.1037 | 2074.66 |

Table S9. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms kJ/mol), computed using B3LYP and PBE functionals, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set.

| ATOM |           | <b>B3LYP</b> |         |           | PBE       |         |
|------|-----------|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| -    | X         | Х+           | IP      | х         | Х+        | IP      |
| Н    | -0.4991   | 0.0000       | 1310.26 | -0.5000   | 0.0000    | 1312.71 |
| He   | -2.9081   | -1.9949      | 2397.62 | -2.8929   | -1.9937   | 2360.75 |
| Li   | -7.4825   | -7.2786      | 535.44  | -7.4620   | -7.2567   | 539.00  |
| Ве   | -14.6593  | -14.3276     | 871.05  | -14.6298  | -14.2992  | 868.05  |
| В    | -24.6479  | -24.3297     | 835.39  | -24.6120  | -24.2932  | 837.04  |
| C    | -37.8402  | -37.4192     | 1105.43 | -37.7985  | -37.3743  | 1113.55 |
| N    | -54.5818  | -54.0464     | 1405.79 | -54.5354  | -53.9943  | 1420.76 |
| 0    | -75.0712  | -74.5556     | 1353.91 | -75.0146  | -74.4978  | 1356.73 |
| F    | -99.7421  | -99.0947     | 1699.95 | -99.6756  | -99.0269  | 1703.26 |
| Ne   | -128.9422 | -128.1483    | 2084.27 | -128.8658 | -128.0700 | 2089.26 |

Table S10. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms kJ/mol), computed using SVWN and M06 functionals, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set.

| ATOM |           | SVWN      |         |           | M06       |         |
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
|      | Х         | X+        | IP      | Х         | X+        | IP      |
| Н    | -0.4787   | 0.0000    | 1256.74 | -0.5002   | 0.0000    | 1313.25 |
| He   | -2.8348   | -1.9417   | 2344.93 | -2.9102   | -1.9996   | 2390.90 |
| Li   | -7.3439   | -7.1427   | 528.11  | -7.4859   | -7.2908   | 512.06  |
| Ве   | -14.4471  | -14.1154  | 870.93  | -14.6609  | -14.3325  | 862.23  |
| В    | -24.3560  | -24.0381  | 834.49  | -24.6425  | -24.3325  | 813.85  |
| C    | -37.4701  | -37.0404  | 1128.22 | -37.8305  | -37.4145  | 1092.34 |
| N    | -54.1365  | -53.5852  | 1447.62 | -54.5789  | -54.0373  | 1421.95 |
| 0    | -74.5310  | -74.0163  | 1351.17 | -75.0651  | -74.5576  | 1332.58 |
| F    | -99.1144  | -98.4545  | 1732.62 | -99.7399  | -99.0950  | 1693.17 |
| Ne   | -128.2329 | -127.4176 | 2140.53 | -128.9512 | -128.1549 | 2090.93 |

| ATOM | PBE(SVWN) |           |        | B3LYP(SVWN) |           |        | M06(SVWN  | )         |        |
|------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|      | x         | X+        | IP     | x           | X+        | IP     | х         | X+        | IP     |
| Н    | -0.4996   | 0.0000    | 1311.6 | -0.4986     | 0.0000    | 1309.1 | -0.4995   | 0.0000    | 1311.4 |
| He   | -2.8922   | -1.9932   | 2360.3 | -2.9072     | -1.9943   | 2396.7 | -2.9084   | -1.9988   | 2388.3 |
| Li   | -7.4609   | -7.2558   | 538.6  | -7.4813     | -7.2776   | 535.0  | -7.4830   | -7.2894   | 508.3  |
| Ве   | -14.6286  | -14.2980  | 868.1  | -14.6579    | -14.3262  | 871.0  | -14.6586  | -14.3313  | 859.2  |
| В    | -24.6102  | -24.2920  | 835.6  | -24.6459    | -24.3282  | 834.1  | -24.6385  | -24.3308  | 807.8  |
| C    | -37.7964  | -37.3725  | 1112.9 | -37.8381    | -37.4171  | 1105.3 | -37.8272  | -37.4123  | 1089.3 |
| N    | -54.5333  | -53.9922  | 1420.6 | -54.5798    | -54.0441  | 1406.3 | -54.5727  | -54.0344  | 1413.3 |
| 0    | -75.0121  | -74.4956  | 1356.1 | -75.0687    | -74.5534  | 1353.0 | -75.0615  | -74.5552  | 1329.3 |
| F    | -99.6732  | -99.0246  | 1703.0 | -99.7395    | -99.0923  | 1699.4 | -99.7341  | -99.0906  | 1689.5 |
| Ne   | -128.8639 | -128.0680 | 2089.8 | -128.9400   | -128.1460 | 2084.7 | -128.9479 | -128.1512 | 2091.5 |

Table S11. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms kJ/mol), computed using SWN densities but other functionals, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set.

Table S12. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms (in kJ/mol), computed using PBE densities but other functionals, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set.

| ATOM | SVWN(PBE) |           |        | B3LYP(PBE) |           |        | M06(PBE)  |           |        |
|------|-----------|-----------|--------|------------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|      | х         | X+        | IP     | х          | X+        | IP     | х         | X+        | IP     |
| Н    | -0.4782   | 0.0000    | 1255.5 | -0.4990    | 0.0000    | 1310.2 | -0.4999   | 0.0000    | 1312.5 |
| He   | -2.8341   | -1.9411   | 2344.5 | -2.9080    | -1.9948   | 2397.6 | -2.9093   | -1.9994   | 2388.9 |
| Li   | -7.3428   | -7.1418   | 527.7  | -7.4824    | -7.2786   | 535.2  | -7.4844   | -7.2906   | 509.1  |
| Ве   | -14.4459  | -14.1142  | 870.9  | -14.6592   | -14.3274  | 870.9  | -14.6604  | -14.3327  | 860.2  |
| В    | -24.3541  | -24.0367  | 833.5  | -24.6475   | -24.3295  | 834.9  | -24.6400  | -24.3327  | 806.6  |
| С    | -37.4681  | -37.0385  | 1127.8 | -37.8398   | -37.4189  | 1105.2 | -37.8286  | -37.4140  | 1088.4 |
| N    | -54.1344  | -53.5831  | 1447.6 | -54.5815   | -54.0460  | 1405.8 | -54.5750  | -54.0361  | 1414.8 |
| 0    | -74.5285  | -74.0142  | 1350.3 | -75.0709   | -74.5552  | 1353.9 | -75.0637  | -74.5568  | 1330.9 |
| F    | -99.1121  | -98.4522  | 1732.6 | -99.7420   | -99.0946  | 1699.7 | -99.7367  | -99.0933  | 1689.2 |
| Ne   | -128.2308 | -127.4153 | 2141.0 | -128.9423  | -128.1484 | 2084.2 | -128.9514 | -128.1540 | 2093.8 |

| ATOM | SVWN (B3L | SVWN (B3LYP) |        |           | PBE (B3LYP) |        |           | M06 (B3LYP) |        |  |
|------|-----------|--------------|--------|-----------|-------------|--------|-----------|-------------|--------|--|
|      | x         | X+           | IP     | x         | X+          | IP     | х         | X+          | IP     |  |
| Н    | -0.4782   | 0.0000       | 1255.5 | -0.5000   | 0.0000      | 1312.6 | -0.4991   | 0.0000      | 1310.3 |  |
| He   | -2.8339   | -1.9411      | 2344.1 | -2.8928   | -1.9937     | 2360.7 | -2.9095   | -1.9995     | 2389.3 |  |
| Li   | -7.3427   | -7.1417      | 527.7  | -7.4619   | -7.2567     | 538.7  | -7.4843   | -7.2907     | 508.3  |  |
| Ве   | -14.4457  | -14.1140     | 870.8  | -14.6297  | -14.2991    | 868.0  | -14.6604  | -14.3325    | 860.8  |  |
| В    | -24.3540  | -24.0366     | 833.3  | -24.6117  | -24.2932    | 836.2  | -24.6404  | -24.3327    | 807.9  |  |
| C    | -37.4679  | -37.0383     | 1128.0 | -37.7980  | -37.3741    | 1113.1 | -37.8290  | -37.4142    | 1089.0 |  |
| N    | -54.1345  | -53.5829     | 1448.2 | -54.5350  | -53.9939    | 1420.6 | -54.5754  | -54.0364    | 1415.2 |  |
| 0    | -74.5284  | -74.0143     | 1350.0 | -75.0143  | -74.4975    | 1356.8 | -75.0644  | -74.5573    | 1331.3 |  |
| F    | -99.1119  | -98.4521     | 1732.3 | -99.6754  | -99.0268    | 1702.9 | -99.7373  | -99.0937    | 1689.7 |  |
| Ne   | -128.2306 | -127.4152    | 2140.9 | -128.8660 | -128.0703   | 2089.3 | -128.9522 | -128.1543   | 2094.9 |  |

Table S13. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms (in kJ/mol), computed using B3LYP densities but other functionals, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set.

Table S14. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms (in kJ/mol), computed using M06 densities but other functionals, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set.

| ATOM | B3LYP(M06) |           |        | PBE(M06)  |           |        | SVWN(M06) |           |        |
|------|------------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|      | х          | X+        | IP     | x         | X+        | IP     | x         | X+        | IP     |
| Н    | -0.4988    | 0.0000    | 1309.5 | -0.4996   | 0.0000    | 1311.7 | -0.4778   | 0.0000    | 1254.6 |
| He   | -2.9074    | -1.9947   | 2396.1 | -2.8920   | -1.9935   | 2358.8 | -2.8330   | -1.9408   | 2342.4 |
| Li   | -7.4813    | -7.2784   | 532.7  | -7.4610   | -7.2563   | 537.3  | -7.3412   | -7.1412   | 525.0  |
| Ве   | -14.6589   | -14.3267  | 872.1  | -14.6294  | -14.2986  | 868.5  | -14.4449  | -14.1133  | 870.4  |
| В    | -24.6469   | -24.3293  | 833.8  | -24.6107  | -24.2930  | 834.0  | -24.3529  | -24.0359  | 832.5  |
| C    | -37.8389   | -37.4184  | 1104.2 | -37.7968  | -37.3733  | 1111.7 | -37.4669  | -37.0375  | 1127.2 |
| N    | -54.5808   | -54.0454  | 1405.8 | -54.5339  | -53.9930  | 1420.1 | -54.1328  | -53.5821  | 1445.9 |
| 0    | -75.0698   | -74.5550  | 1351.6 | -75.0125  | -74.4952  | 1358.2 | -74.5268  | -74.0124  | 1350.5 |
| F    | -99.7409   | -99.0937  | 1699.1 | -99.6737  | -99.0255  | 1701.9 | -99.1101  | -98.4505  | 1731.8 |
| Ne   | -128.9409  | -128.1474 | 2083.3 | -128.8639 | -128.0689 | 2087.3 | -128.2273 | -127.4136 | 2136.4 |

Table S15. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms (in kJ/mol), computed using B3LYP and PBE functionals, def-TZVP basis set.

| ATOM |          | B3LYP    |         |          | PBE      |         |
|------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|
|      | Х        | X+       | IP      | x        | X+       | IP      |
| Н    | -0.4988  | 0.0000   | 1309.51 | -0.4996  | 0.0000   | 1311.74 |
| He   | -2.9059  | -1.9933  | 2396.12 | -2.8906  | -1.9921  | 2358.97 |
| Li   | -7.4824  | -7.2785  | 535.32  | -7.4619  | -7.2566  | 538.98  |
| Ве   | -14.6581 | -14.3264 | 870.86  | -14.6283 | -14.2977 | 867.93  |
| В    | -24.6463 | -24.3283 | 834.93  | -24.6101 | -24.2915 | 836.54  |
| C    | -37.8382 | -37.4173 | 1104.84 | -37.7960 | -37.3722 | 1112.73 |
| N    | -54.5790 | -54.0435 | 1405.88 | -54.5322 | -53.9912 | 1420.35 |
| 0    | -75.0669 | -74.5523 | 1351.01 | -75.0097 | -74.4943 | 1353.03 |
| F    | -99.7363 | -99.0898 | 1697.35 | -99.6691 | -99.0218 | 1699.64 |
| Ne   | -0.4988  | 0.0000   | 1309.51 | -0.4996  | 0.0000   | 1311.74 |

Table S16. Electronic energies for atoms and ions (in a.u.) and ionization potentials (IP) for atoms (in kJ/mol), computed using SVWN and M06 functionals, def-TZVP basis set.

| ATOM |           | SVWN      |         |           | M06       |         |
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
|      | х         | X+        | IP      | x         | X+        | IP      |
| Н    | -0.4783   | 0.0000    | 1255.90 | -0.4999   | 0.0000    | 1312.41 |
| He   | -2.8326   | -1.9402   | 2342.98 | -2.9082   | -1.9990   | 2386.98 |
| Li   | -7.3438   | -7.1427   | 527.88  | -7.4861   | -7.2911   | 512.08  |
| Ве   | -14.4457  | -14.1142  | 870.31  | -14.6596  | -14.3316  | 861.19  |
| В    | -24.3539  | -24.0365  | 833.54  | -24.6407  | -24.3314  | 812.16  |
| С    | -37.4674  | -37.0381  | 1127.15 | -37.8279  | -37.4123  | 1091.05 |
| N    | -54.1329  | -53.5817  | 1446.99 | -54.5765  | -54.0342  | 1423.70 |
| 0    | -74.5256  | -74.0124  | 1347.36 | -75.0612  | -74.5552  | 1328.50 |
| F    | -99.1074  | -98.4488  | 1729.30 | -99.7345  | -99.0911  | 1689.47 |
| Ne   | -128.2241 | -127.4090 | 2140.11 | -128.9457 | -128.1492 | 2091.12 |

|    | aug-cc-pV    | 5Z     |        |        | def-TZVP     |        |        |        |
|----|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|
|    | <b>B3LYP</b> | PBE    | SVWN   | M06    | <b>B3LYP</b> | PBE    | SVWN   | M06    |
| Н  | 1.81         | -0.64  | 55.34  | -1.18  | 2.57         | 0.33   | 56.18  | -0.34  |
| He | -25.25       | 11.62  | 27.43  | -18.54 | -23.75       | 13.39  | 29.38  | -14.62 |
| Li | -15.21       | -18.77 | -7.88  | 8.17   | -15.09       | -18.75 | -7.65  | 8.15   |
| Ве | 28.46        | 31.46  | 28.58  | 37.28  | 28.65        | 31.58  | 29.20  | 38.33  |
| В  | -34.73       | -36.38 | -33.84 | -13.20 | -34.28       | -35.89 | -32.89 | -11.51 |
| С  | -18.96       | -27.08 | -41.74 | -5.87  | -18.37       | -26.26 | -40.68 | -4.58  |
| N  | -3.44        | -18.41 | -45.27 | -19.59 | -3.53        | -17.99 | -44.64 | -21.34 |
| 0  | -39.94       | -42.76 | -37.20 | -18.61 | -37.04       | -39.07 | -33.40 | -14.54 |
| F  | -18.88       | -22.18 | -51.55 | -12.10 | -16.28       | -18.57 | -48.22 | -8.40  |
| Ne | -3.58        | -8.56  | -59.83 | -10.23 | -4.26        | -8.14  | -59.41 | -10.42 |

Table S17. Errors in computed ionization potentials (in kJ/mol) with two basis sets as specified.

Table S18. Average basis set sensitivity, calculated as the difference in absolute errors in IPs computed with augcc-pV5Z and def-TZVP. Units of kJ/mol.

|         | B3LYP | PBE  | SVWN | M06  |
|---------|-------|------|------|------|
| Н       | 0.75  | 0.97 | 0.84 | 0.84 |
| He      | 1.50  | 1.77 | 1.95 | 3.92 |
| Li      | 0.12  | 0.02 | 0.23 | 0.02 |
| Ве      | 0.19  | 0.12 | 0.62 | 1.05 |
| В       | 0.46  | 0.50 | 0.95 | 1.69 |
| C       | 0.59  | 0.82 | 1.07 | 1.29 |
| N       | 0.09  | 0.41 | 0.63 | 1.75 |
| 0       | 2.90  | 3.69 | 3.81 | 4.08 |
| F       | 2.60  | 3.61 | 3.33 | 3.70 |
| Ne      | 0.69  | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.19 |
| Average | 0.99  | 1.23 | 1.38 | 1.85 |

Table S19. Computed electronic energies of the water molecule and water cation (in units of a.u.), and the ionization potential in units of kJ/mol, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set.

| E(B3LYP),        | E(B3LYP), | IP(B3LYP) | E(PBE),          | E(PBE),  | IP(PBE) |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|----------|---------|
| H <sub>2</sub> O | $H_2O^+$  | kJ/mol    | H <sub>2</sub> O | $H_2O^+$ | kJ/mol  |
| -76.4369         | -75.9746  | 1213.83   | -76.3884         | -75.9235 | 1220.53 |
|                  |           |           |                  |          |         |
| E(SVWN),         | E(SVWN),  | IP(SVWN)  | E(M06),          | E(M06),  | IP(M06) |
| H <sub>2</sub> O | $H_2O^+$  | kJ/mol    | H <sub>2</sub> O | $H_2O^+$ | kJ/mol  |
| -75.9134         | -75.4354  | 1255.16   | -76.4342         | -75.9700 | 1218.76 |

Table S20. Computed electronic energies of the water molecule and water cation (in units of a.u.), and the ionization potential in units of kJ/mol, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set, for PBE, B3LYP, and M06 using SVWN densities as trial densities.

| PBE(SVWN)                        |                 |        | B3LYP(SVWN)                      |                 |         | M06(SVWN)                        |                 |         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP     | E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      | E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      |
|                                  |                 | kJ/mol |                                  |                 | kJ/mol  |                                  |                 | kJ/mol  |
| -76.3861                         | -75.9209        | 1221.3 | -76.4344                         | -75.97194       | 1214.08 | -76.4297                         | -75.9667        | 1215.82 |

Table S21. Computed electronic energies of the water molecule and water cation (in units of a.u.), and the ionization potential in units of kJ/mol, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set, for SVWN, B3LYP, and M06 using PBE densities as trial densities.

| SVWN(PBE)                        |                 |         | B3LYP(PBE)                       |                  |         | M06(PBE)                         |                 |         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      | E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2 O^+$ | IP      | E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      |
|                                  |                 | kJ/mol  |                                  |                  | kJ/mol  |                                  |                 | kJ/mol  |
| -75.9111                         | -75.4328        | 1255.87 | -76.4368                         | -75.9743         | 1214.14 | -76.4325                         | -75.9685        | 1218.28 |

Table S22. Computed electronic energies of the water molecule and water cation (in units of a.u.), and the ionization potential in units of kJ/mol, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set, for SVWN, PBE, and M06 using B3LYP densities as trial densities.

| SVWN(B3LYP) |                 |         | PBE(B3LYP)                       |                 |         | M06(B3LYP) |                 |         |
|-------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|------------|-----------------|---------|
| Eel H2O     | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      | E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      | Eel H2O    | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      |
|             |                 | kJ/mol  |                                  |                 | kJ/mol  |            |                 | kJ/mol  |
| -75.9110    | -75.4328        | 1255.39 | -76.3884                         | -75.9234        | 1220.87 | -76.4327   | -75.9688        | 1217.98 |

Table S23. Computed electronic energies of the water molecule and water cation (in units of a.u.), and the ionization potential in units of kJ/mol, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set, for B3LYP, PBE, and SVWN using M06 densities as trial densities.

| B3LYP(M06)                       |                 |         | PBE(M06)                         |                 |         | SVWN(M06)                        |                 |         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      | E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      | E <sub>el</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O | $E_{el} H_2O^+$ | IP      |
|                                  |                 | kJ/mol  |                                  |                 | kJ/mol  |                                  |                 | kJ/mol  |
| -76.4343                         | -75.9726        | 1212.13 | -76.3858                         | -75.9214        | 1219.28 | -75.9081                         | -75.4314        | 1251.70 |

Table S24. Computed zero point energies from TPSSh/def2-TZVPP geometry optimization and numerically computed frequencies.

|      | ZPE (a.u.) | ZPE (kJ/mol) |
|------|------------|--------------|
| NaCl | 0.0007976  | 2.09         |
| N2   | 0.0053607  | 14.07        |
| HF   | 0.0090684  | 23.81        |
| CO   | 0.0048478  | 12.73        |
| 02   | 0.0035435  | 9.30         |

Table S25. Computed bond dissociation energies (aug-cc-pV5Z basis, in kJ/mol), corrected for enthalpy and ZPE. Experimental values from the 2014 CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics<sup>[4]</sup>.

|                | CCSD(T) | CCSD   | B3LYP  | PBE    | SVWN   | M06    | EXP.   |
|----------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| NaCl           | 423.8   | 414.5  | 383.2  | 392.0  | 431.9  | 427.5  | 412.1  |
| N <sub>2</sub> | 937.5   | 895.8  | 939.5  | 1005.9 | 1103.2 | 920.5  | 944.9  |
| HF             | 569.0   | 559.6  | 558.1  | 571.1  | 655.3  | 566.1  | 569.7  |
| СО             | 1075.1  | 1040.5 | 1052.3 | 1113.3 | 1237.8 | 1073.9 | 1076.6 |
| 02             | 493.2   | 457.3  | 506.3  | 593.4  | 722.5  | 497.0  | 498.5  |
| MAE            | 5.3     | 27.8   | 15.6   | 42.8   | 129.8  | 9.5    |        |

Table S26. Computed electronic energies and D<sub>e</sub> (not corrected for ZPE) of diatomic molecules, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set. B3LYP, PBE, and CCSD(T).

|                | B3LYP         |              | PBE           |             | CCSD(T)       |             |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|                | Energy (a.u.) | BDE (kJ/mol) | Energy (a.u.) | BDE(kJ/mol) | Energy (a.u.) | BDE(kJ/mol) |
| NaCl           | -622.5210     | 385.3        | -622.2917     | 394.1       | -621.9901     | 425.9       |
| N <sub>2</sub> | -109.5268     | 953.6        | -109.4593     | 1019.9      | -109.4878     | 951.6       |
| HF             | -100.4628     | 581.9        | -100.4022     | 595.0       | -100.4258     | 592.8       |
| CO             | -113.3171     | 1065.0       | -113.2419     | 1126.0      | -113.2710     | 1087.9      |
| 02             | -150.3389     | 515.6        | -150.2587     | 602.7       | -150.2657     | 502.5       |

Table S27. Computed electronic energies and  $D_e$  (not corrected for ZPE) of diatomic molecules, aug-cc-pV5Z basis set. SVWN, M06, and CCSD.

|                | SVWN          |              | M06           |             | CCSD          |             |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
|                | Energy (a.u.) | BDE (kJ/mol) | Energy (a.u.) | BDE(kJ/mol) | Energy (a.u.) | BDE(kJ/mol) |
| NaCl           | -620.2719     | 434.0        | -622.5693     | 429.6       | -621.9756     | 416.6       |
| N <sub>2</sub> | -108.6986     | 1117.3       | -109.5137     | 934.6       | -109.4654     | 909.9       |
| HF             | -99.8518      | 679.1        | -100.4647     | 589.9       | -100.4168     | 583.4       |
| CO             | -112.4774     | 1250.6       | -113.3095     | 1086.6      | -113.2507     | 1053.2      |
| 02             | -149.3407     | 731.8        | -150.3231     | 506.3       | -150.2434     | 466.6       |

|                | PBE              |                 | B3LYP            |                 | M06              |                 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) |
| NaCl           | -622.2895        | 393.93          | -622.5178        | 384.67          | -622.5684        | 423.78          |
| N <sub>2</sub> | -109.4551        | 1019.71         | -109.5224        | 952.40          | -109.5077        | 937.13          |
| HF             | -100.3998        | 596.26          | -100.4603        | 583.57          | -100.4572        | 583.90          |
| CO             | -113.2379        | 1126.90         | -113.3124        | 1064.49         | -113.3026        | 1086.40         |
| O <sub>2</sub> | -150.2542        | 603.22          | -150.3334        | 514.07          | -150.3150        | 507.08          |

Table S28. Electronic energies of diatomic molecules for PBE, B3LYP, and M06 computed using SVWN densities.

Table S29. Electronic energies of diatomic molecules for SVWN, B3LYP, and M06 computed using PBE densities.

|                | SVWN             |                 | B3LYP            |                 | M06              |                 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) |
| NaCl           | -620.2691        | 433.84          | -622.5204        | 384.68          | -622.5733        | 426.80          |
| N <sub>2</sub> | -108.6946        | 1117.53         | -109.5261        | 953.15          | -109.5114        | 936.49          |
| HF             | -99.8495         | 680.83          | -100.4626        | 582.07          | -100.4601        | 583.89          |
| CO             | -112.4735        | 1251.77         | -113.3162        | 1064.20         | -113.3068        | 1088.80         |
| 02             | -149.3362        | 732.59          | -150.3378        | 514.02          | -150.3196        | 507.31          |

| Table S30. Electronic energy | gies of diatomic molecules  | s for SVWN. PBE. a | and M06 computed u | sing B3LYP densities. |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Table 0001 Electronic cherg  | bies of anatonine molecules | ,                  | ina moo compatea a | Sing Dorn achisters   |

|                | SVWN             |                 | PBE              |                 | M06              |                 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) |
| NaCl           | -620.2685        | 433.49          | -622.2914        | 393.61          | -622.5748        | 428.61          |
| N <sub>2</sub> | -108.6942        | 1116.27         | -109.4585        | 1019.22         | -109.5110        | 932.53          |
| HF             | -99.8494         | 681.07          | -100.4019        | 595.00          | -100.4607        | 583.46          |
| CO             | -112.4727        | 1250.34         | -113.2410        | 1125.26         | -113.3073        | 1087.14         |
| O <sub>2</sub> | -149.3354        | 730.82          | -150.2578        | 601.46          | -150.3195        | 503.52          |

Table S31. Electronic energies of diatomic molecules for SVWN, B3LYP, and PBE computed using M06 densities.

|                | SVWN             |                 | B3LYP            |                 | PBE              |                 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) | Energy<br>(a.u.) | BDE<br>(kJ/mol) |
| NaCl           | -620.2624        | 430.49          | -622.5178        | 385.65          | -622.2875        | 392.85          |
| N <sub>2</sub> | -108.6922        | 1119.87         | -109.5237        | 950.28          | -109.4565        | 1019.77         |
| HF             | -99.8463         | 678.79          | -100.4607        | 580.43          | -100.3995        | 593.85          |
| CO             | -112.4694        | 1248.81         | -113.3137        | 1063.01         | -113.2380        | 1125.30         |
| O <sub>2</sub> | -149.3333        | 734.22          | -150.3357        | 514.36          | -150.2558        | 605.50          |

Table S32. Computed Co-C bond dissociation energies (kJ/mol) of 5'-deoxyadenosylcobalamin (def2-TZVPP basis, not corrected for zero-point energies).

|                                  | E(B3LYP) | E(PBE) | E(SVWN) | E(M06) |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------|---------|--------|
| Рвзгль                           | 65.9     | 123.1  | 199.2   | 121.1  |
| Ррве                             | 69.5     | 119.8  | 200.8   | 117.0  |
| ρ <sub>svwn</sub>                | 67.3     | 120.6  | 200.0   | 119.0  |
| ρ <sub>м06</sub>                 | 68.2     | 117.1  | 198.1   | 102.4  |
| SENSITIVITY<br>(MAD from native) | 2.4      | 3.9    | 1.2     | 8.3    |

## References

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