

Supporting Information:

**Highly regioselective hydride transfer, oxidative
dehydrogenation, and hydrogen-atom abstraction in the
thermal gas-phase chemistry of $[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+/\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$**

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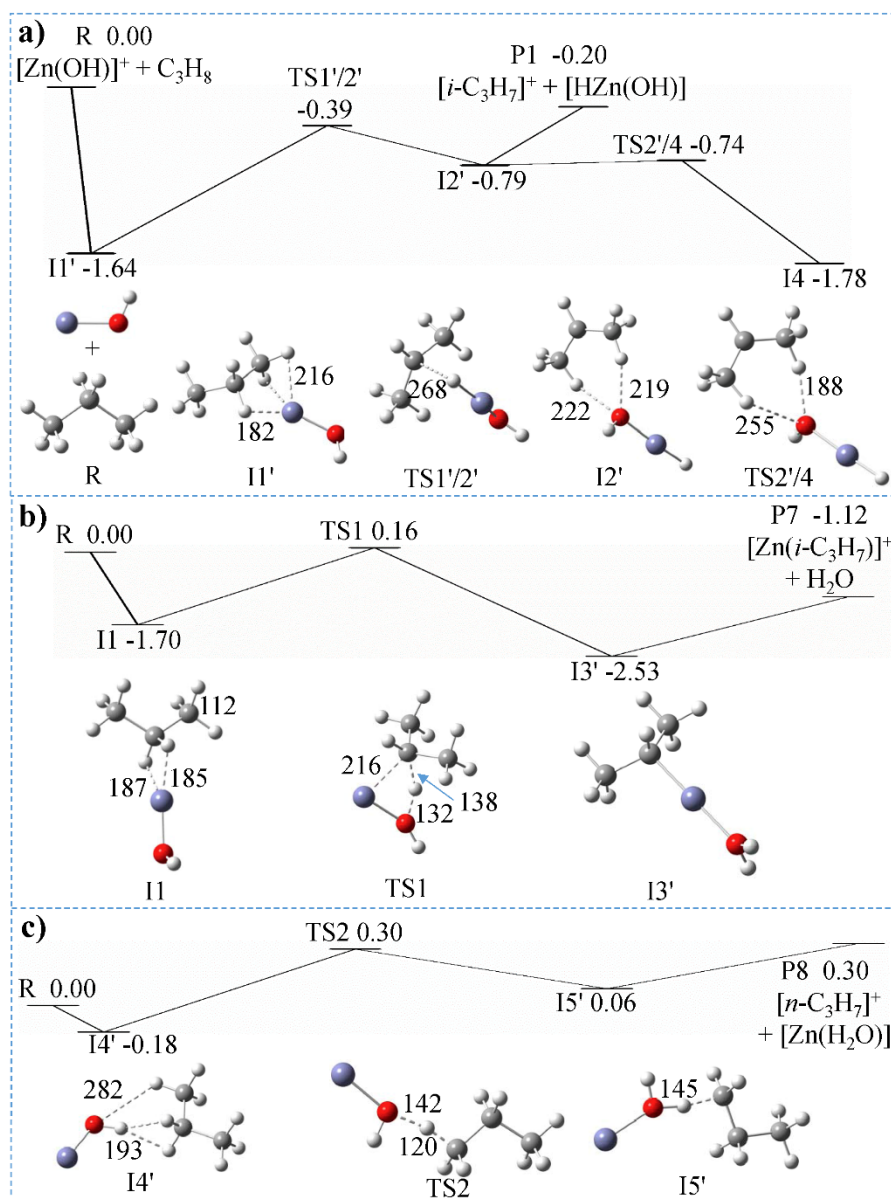


Figure S1: MP2-calculated additional possible potential-energy profiles for the reactions of $[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+$ with C_3H_8 . The energies of intermediates and transition states are given relative to $[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+/\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$ (R): Color code: blue Zn, red O, gray C, and white H. Selected bond lengths are given in pm; relative $\Delta H_{0\text{K}}$ energies (in eV) are given with reference to the separated reactant pair.

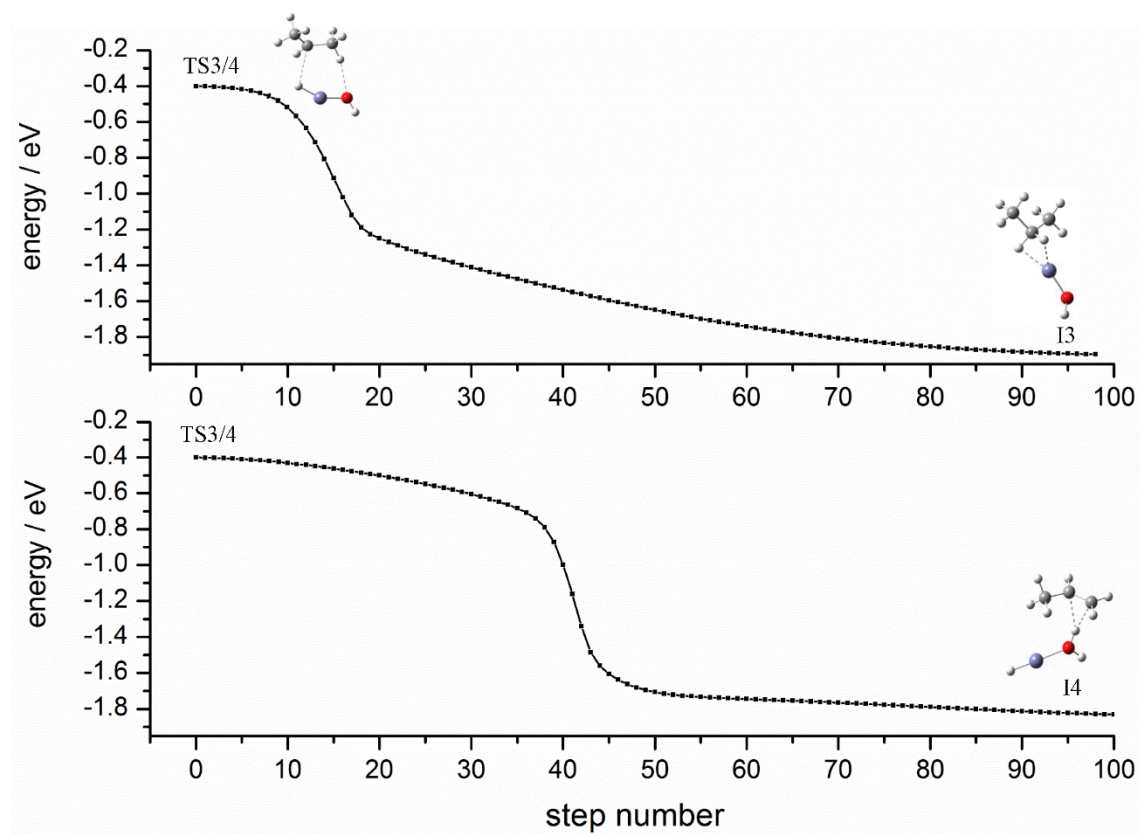


Figure S2: Intrinsic reaction coordinate (IRC) routes for TS3/4 in Figure 2.

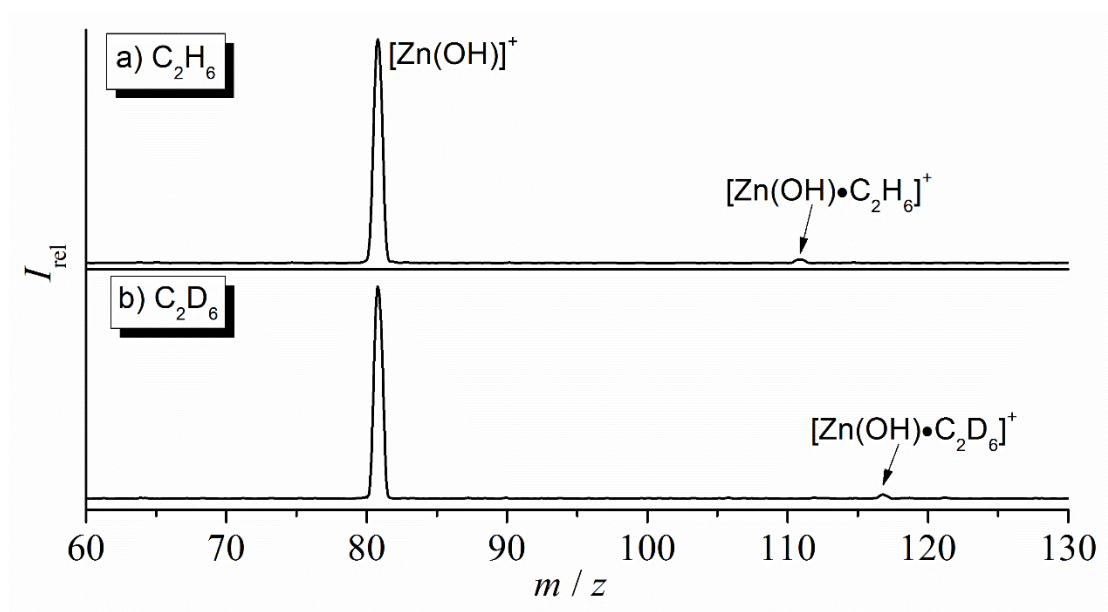


Figure S3: Mass spectra showing the ion/molecule reactions of mass-selected $[^{64}Zn(OH)]^+$ with C_2H_6 (a) and C_2D_6 (b) at a pressure of 1.0×10^{-3} mbar in the VG BIO-Q mass spectrometer.

Method	VDE ([ZnOH] ⁻) ^a	$r_e(\text{Zn-OH})^b$	Bond angle ^c	$D_0([\text{ZnO}]^+)^d$	IE(ZnO) ^e
Experiment	1.78	1.809	114.2	1.65	9.34
MP2/6-311 ++G(2d,2p)	1.42	1.808	114.3	1.32	9.51

Table S1: Comparison of calculated results and experimental Data.

^aVDE([ZnOH]⁻) (in eV) represents the vertical detachment energy of ([ZnOH]⁻), whose experimental value is taken from ref.1.

^b $r_e(\text{ZnOH})$ (in Å) represents the bond length of Zn-OH; the experimental value is taken from ref.2.

^c θ represents the bond angle in neutral ZnOH; the experimental value is taken from ref.2.

^d $D_0([\text{ZnO}]^+)$ (in eV) represents the dissociation energy of [ZnO]⁺; the experimental value is taken from the ref.3.

$^{\circ}\text{IE}(\text{ZnO})$ (in eV) represents the ionization energies of ZnO, and the experimental value is taken from the ref.3.

Reference:

1. I. Iordanov, K. D. D. Gunaratne, C. L. Harmon, J. O. Sofo and A. W. Castleman, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 2012, 136.
2. L. N. Zack, M. Sun, M. P. Bucchino, D. J. Clouthier and L. M. Ziurys, *J. Phys. Chem. A*, 2012, 116, 1542.
3. D. E. Clemmer, N. F. Dalleska and P. B. Armentrout, *J. Chem. Phys.*, 1991, 95, 7263.

Method	TS3/4	P1	$\Delta(\text{P1-TS3/4})$
HF	-0.46	-0.38	0.06
PBE1PBE	-0.68	-0.56	0.12
BLYP	-0.91	-0.83	0.12
TPSS	-0.79	-0.64	0.15
BB95	-0.88	-0.77	0.11
B3LYP	-0.78	-0.71	0.07
BHANDHLYP	-0.68	-0.56	0.12
B2PLYP	-0.65	-0.51	0.14
M06	-0.98	-0.75	0.23
mPW2PLYP	-0.67	-0.51	0.15
MP2	-0.40	-0.20	0.20
CCSD(T)-cc-pVTZ	-0.38	-0.13	0.25

Table S2. The relative energies (in eV) of TS3/4 and P1 (relative to separated $[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+/\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$) obtained by various methods: HF→DFT→MP2→CCSD(T).

X	Low spin	X	High spin
$^1[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+ + ^1\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$	0.0	$^3[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+ + ^1\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$	1.77
$^1[i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7]^+ + ^1[\text{HZn}(\text{OH})]$	-0.20	$^1[i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7]^+ + ^3[\text{HZn}(\text{OH})]$	3.00
$^1[i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7]^+ + ^1[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	0.06	$^1[i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7]^+ + ^3[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	3.83
$^1[\text{HZn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+ + ^1\text{C}_3\text{H}_6$	-1.12	$^3[\text{HZn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+ + ^1\text{C}_3\text{H}_6$	1.63
$^1[\text{Zn}(i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7)]^+ + ^1\text{H}_2\text{O}$	-1.12	$^3[\text{Zn}(i\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7)]^+ + ^1\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.69
$^1[n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7]^+ + ^1[\text{HZn}(\text{OH})]$	0.06	$^1[n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7]^+ + ^3[\text{HZn}(\text{OH})]$	3.26
$^1[n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7]^+ + ^1[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	0.33	$^1[n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7]^+ + ^3[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	4.10
$^1[\text{Zn}(n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7)]^+ + ^1\text{H}_2\text{O}$	-1.07	$^3[\text{Zn}(n\text{-C}_3\text{H}_7)]^+ + ^1\text{H}_2\text{O}$	0.92

Table S3. MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) calculated energies (in eV) of high-spin and low-spin products with respect to the ground state $^1[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+ / ^1\text{C}_3\text{H}_8$ in the reaction of $[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+$ with C_3H_8 .

X	Low spin	X	High spin
$^1[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+ + ^1\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$	0.0	$^3[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+ + ^1\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$	1.77
$^1[\text{C}_2\text{H}_5]^+ + ^1[\text{HZn}(\text{OH})]$	0.58	$^1[\text{C}_2\text{H}_5]^+ + ^3[\text{HZn}(\text{OH})]$	3.77
$^1[\text{C}_2\text{H}_5]^+ + ^1[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	0.84	$^1[\text{C}_2\text{H}_5]^+ + ^3[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	4.61
$^1[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+ + ^2\text{C}_2\text{H}_5$	0.41	$^3[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+ + ^2\text{CH}_3$	9.15

Table S4. MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) calculated energies (in eV) of high-spin and low-spin products with respect to the ground state $^1[\text{ZnOH}]^+ / ^1\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$ in the reaction of $[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+$ with C_2H_6 .

X	Low spin	X	High spin
$^1[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+ + ^1\text{CH}_4$	0.0	$^3[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+ + ^1\text{CH}_4$	1.77
$^1[\text{CH}_3]^+ + ^1[\text{HZn}(\text{OH})]$	2.39	$^1[\text{CH}_3]^+ + ^3[\text{HZn}(\text{OH})]$	5.59
$^1[\text{CH}_3]^+ + ^1[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	2.65	$^1[\text{CH}_3]^+ + ^3[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]$	6.42
$^1[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+ + ^2\text{CH}_3$	0.53	$^3[\text{Zn}(\text{H}_2\text{O})]^+ + ^2\text{CH}_3$	9.25

Table S5. MP2/6-311++G(2d,2p) calculated energies (in eV) of high-spin and low-spin products with respect to the ground state $^1[\text{ZnOH}]^+/^1\text{CH}_4$ in the reaction of $[\text{Zn}(\text{OH})]^+$ with CH_4 .