

Supplementary Information

**Fluorination Activates the Basal Plane HER Activity of ReS<sub>2</sub>: A Combined  
Experimental and Theoretical Study**

*Yonggang Liu,<sup>a</sup> Haijing Li,<sup>b</sup> Junfu Li,<sup>c</sup> Xiaoshuang Ma,<sup>a</sup> Zhiming Cui,<sup>d</sup> Daqiang Gao<sup>\*,c</sup>  
and Zhenghua Tang<sup>\*,a,d</sup>*

<sup>a</sup> Guangzhou Key Laboratory for Surface Chemistry of Energy Materials, New Energy Research Institute, School of Environment and Energy, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou Higher Education Mega Centre, Guangzhou, 510006, China

<sup>b</sup> Beijing Synchrotron Radiation Facility, Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100049, China

<sup>c</sup> Key Laboratory for Magnetism and Magnetic Materials of MOE, Key Laboratory of Special Function Materials and Structure Design, Ministry of Education, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, 730000, China

<sup>d</sup> *Key Laboratory of Fuel Cell Technology of Guangdong Province, School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou, 510640, China*

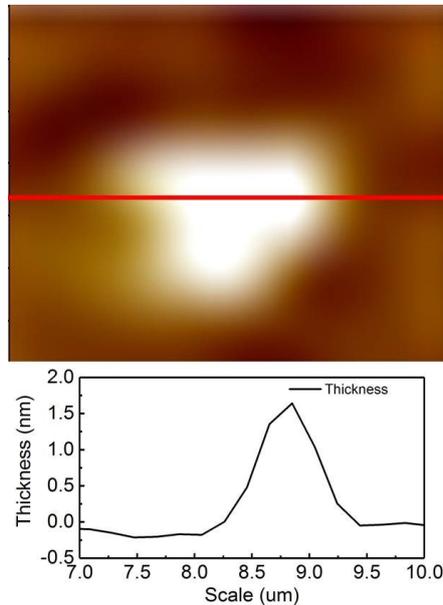
**Table S1.** Atomic concentration of the samples measured by XPS.

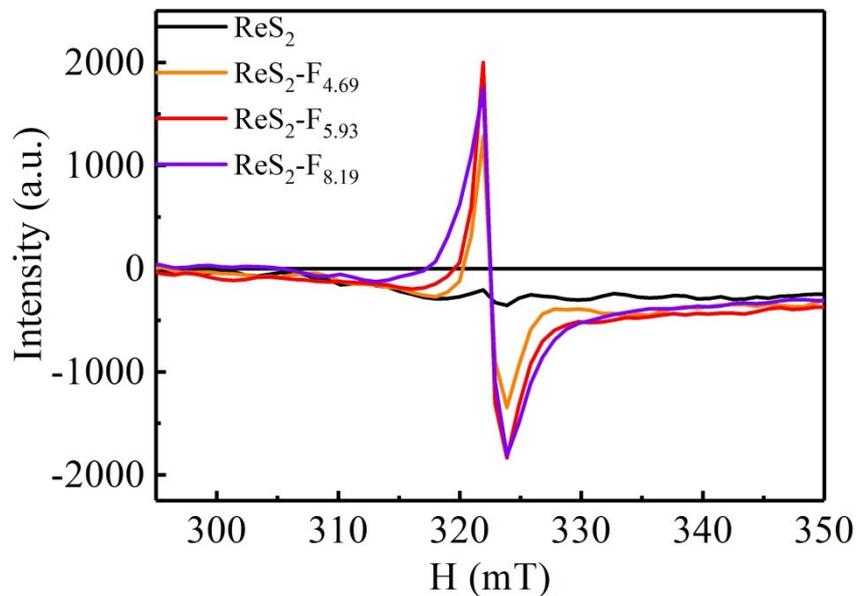
Atomic concentration at. %			
Peaks	ReS <sub>2</sub>	ReS <sub>2</sub> -F <sub>4.69</sub>	ReS <sub>2</sub> -F <sub>5.93</sub>
Re 4f	33.28	34.09	34.80
S 2p	66.72	61.22	59.27
F 1s	0	4.69	5.93

**Table S2.** Re L3-edge EXAFS curve fitting parameters of ReS<sub>2</sub> and ReS<sub>2</sub>-F<sub>5.93</sub>.

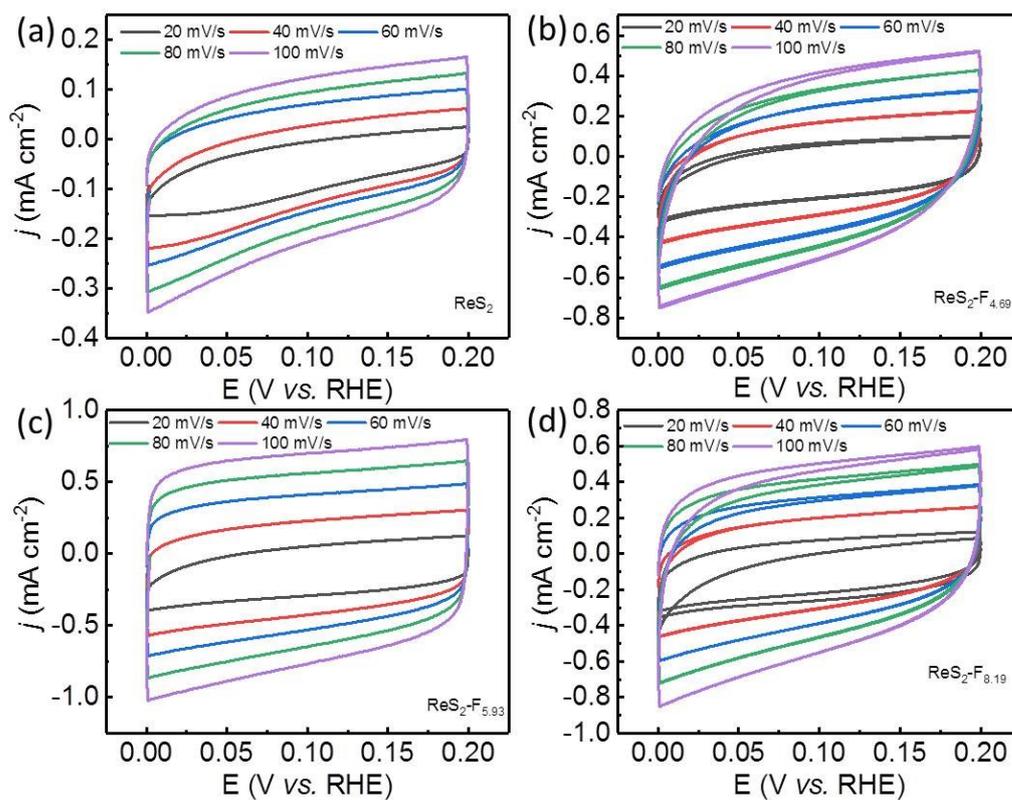
Sample	path	<i>N</i>	<i>R</i> (Å)	$\sigma^2$ ( $\times 10^{-3}$ Å <sup>2</sup> )	$\Delta E_0$ (eV)	<i>R</i> , %
ReS <sub>2</sub>	Re-S	4.9	1.963	0.0056	8.7	0.01
	Re-Re	2.3	2.786	0.0059		
ReS <sub>2</sub> -F <sub>5.93</sub>	Re-S	4.8	1.994	0.0062	7.6	0.01
	Re-Re	2.5	2.778	0.0071		

*N* is the coordination number; *R* represent the distance between absorber and backscatter atoms;  $\sigma^2$  is regarded as Debye-Waller factor to account for both thermal and structural disorders;  $\Delta E_0$  is used as inner potential correction; The goodness of the fit is assessed by *R* factor (%). Error bounds (accuracies) that characterize the structural parameters obtained by EXAFS spectroscopy were estimated as  $N \pm 20\%$ ;  $R \pm 1\%$ ;  $\sigma^2 \pm 20\%$ ;  $\Delta E_0 \pm 20\%$ .  $S_0^2$  was fixed to 1.0. Bold numbers indicate fixed coordination number (*N*) according to the crystal structure. Fitting range:  $2.0 \leq k$  ( $\text{\AA}^{-1}$ )  $\leq 14.5$  and  $1.0 \leq R$  ( $\text{\AA}$ )  $\leq 3.5$ .

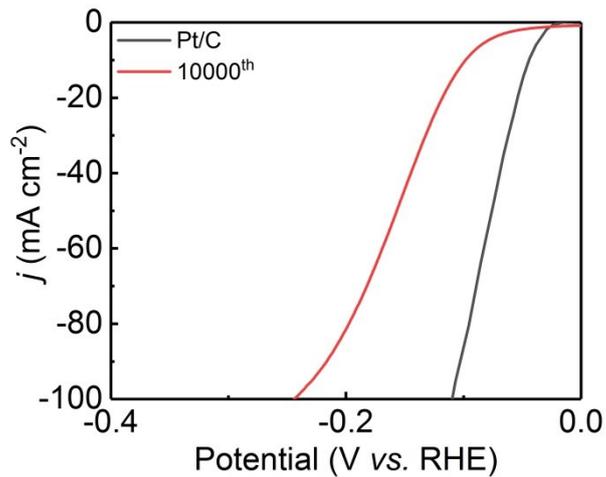
**Figure S1.** The AFM image and the corresponding height profile of ReS<sub>2</sub>-F<sub>5.93</sub>.



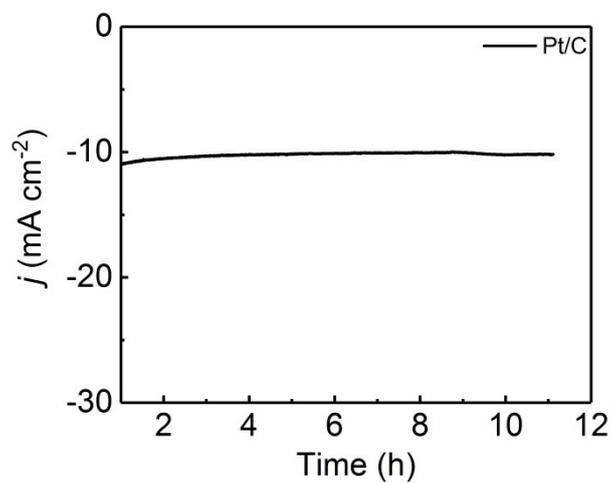
**Figure S2.** The ESR results  $\text{ReS}_2\text{-F}_{5.93}$ .



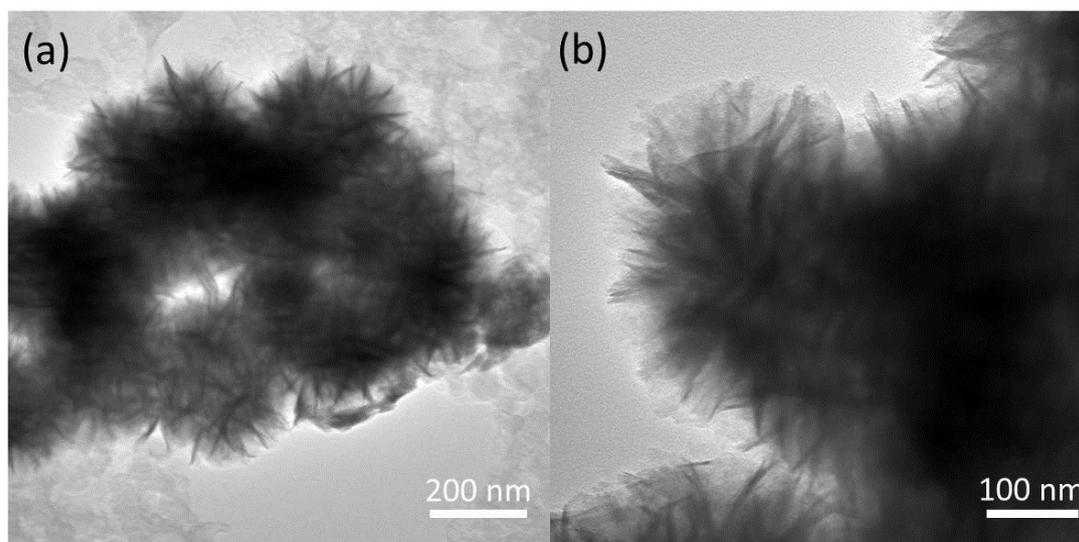
**Figure S3.** The CV curves of (a)  $\text{ReS}_2$ , (b)  $\text{ReS}_2\text{-F}_{4.69}$ , (c)  $\text{ReS}_2\text{-F}_{5.93}$ , and (d)  $\text{ReS}_2\text{-F}_{8.19}$  at scan rates of 20, 40, 60, 80, and 100  $\text{mV s}^{-1}$  in 0.5 M  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ .



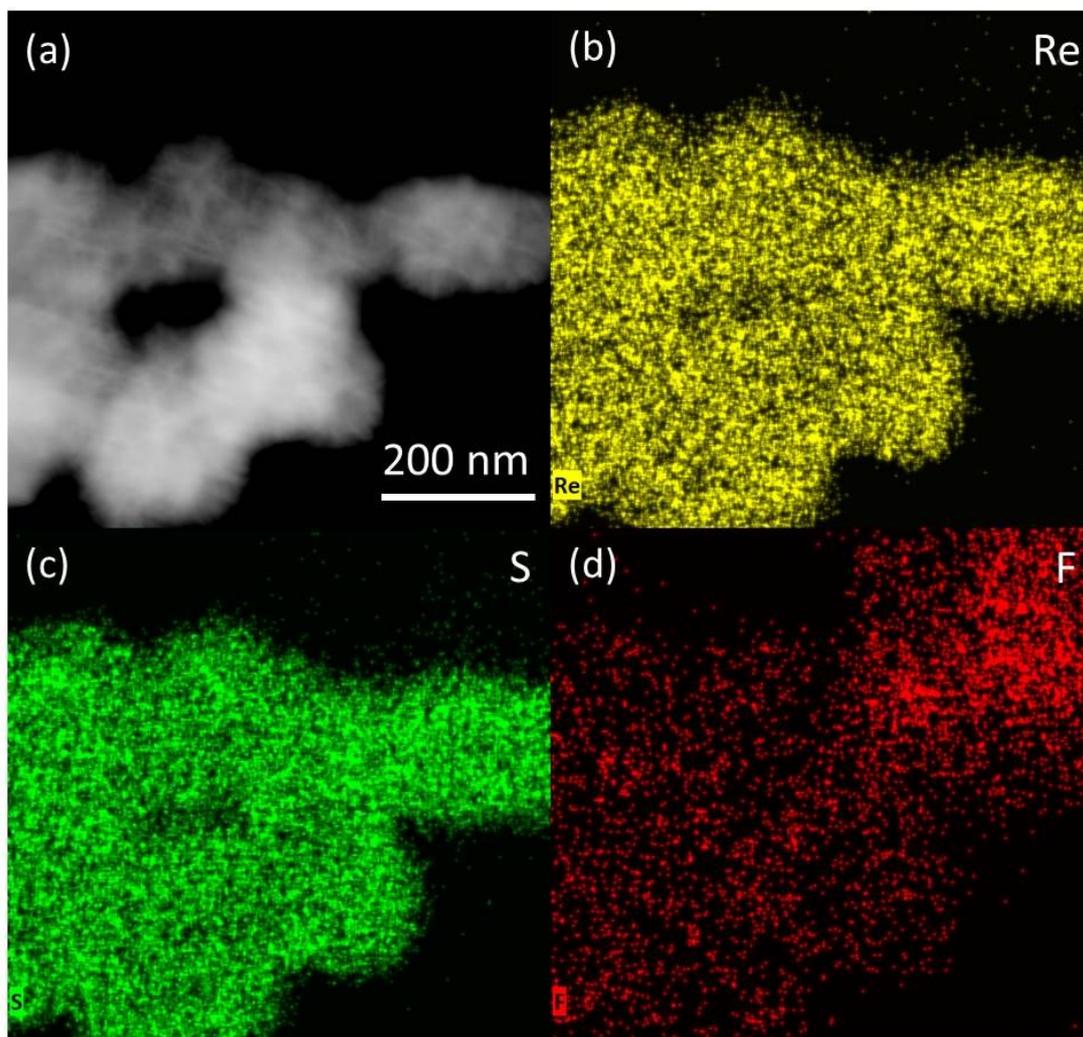
**Figure S4.** LSV curves of the Pt/C catalyst before and after 10000 CV cycles.



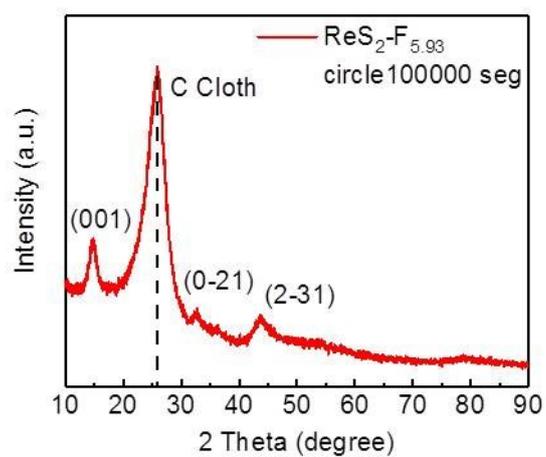
**Figure S5.** The Time-dependent current density curve of the Pt/C catalyst.



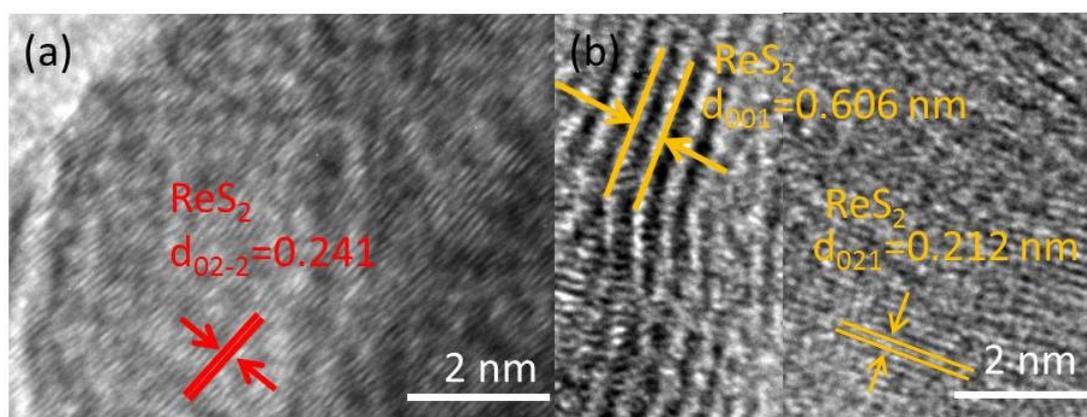
**Figure S6.** The SEM image of (a) pristine  $\text{ReS}_2$  and (b)  $\text{ReS}_2\text{-F}_{5.93}$  measured after the HER test.



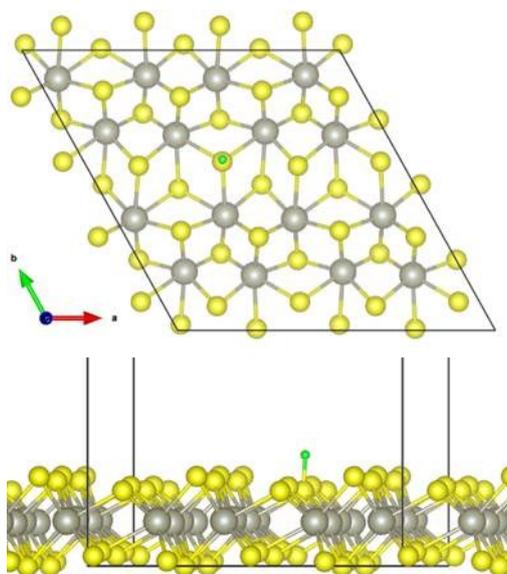
**Figure S7.** HAADF image and the EDX mapping of the  $\text{ReS}_2\text{-F}_{5.93}$  measured after the HER test.



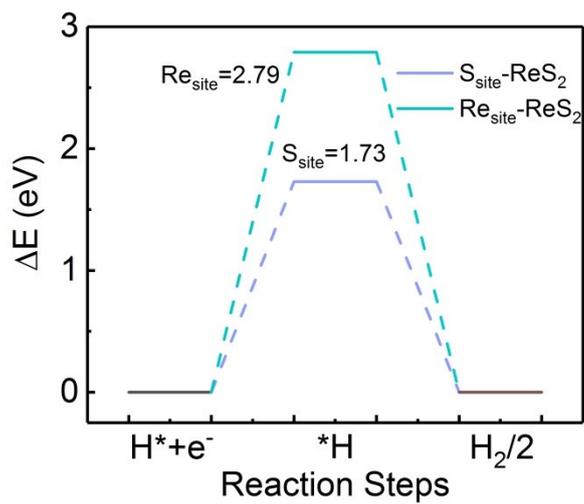
**Figure S8.** XRD pattern of the  $\text{ReS}_2\text{-F}_{5.93}$  measured after the HER test.



**Figure S9.** HRTEM image of the (a) pristine  $\text{ReS}_2$  and (b)  $\text{ReS}_2\text{-F}_{5.93}$  measured after HER test.



**Figure S10.** The calculation models of  $\text{ReS}_2$ .



**Figure S11.** HER free energy diagram calculation at equilibrium potential for Re and S site of the  $\text{ReS}_2$ .