

## Supporting Information

# Decreased Spin-resolved Anti-bonding States Filling to Accelerate CHO Conversion to CH<sub>2</sub>O in Transitional Metals Doped Mo<sub>2</sub>C Monolayer during CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction

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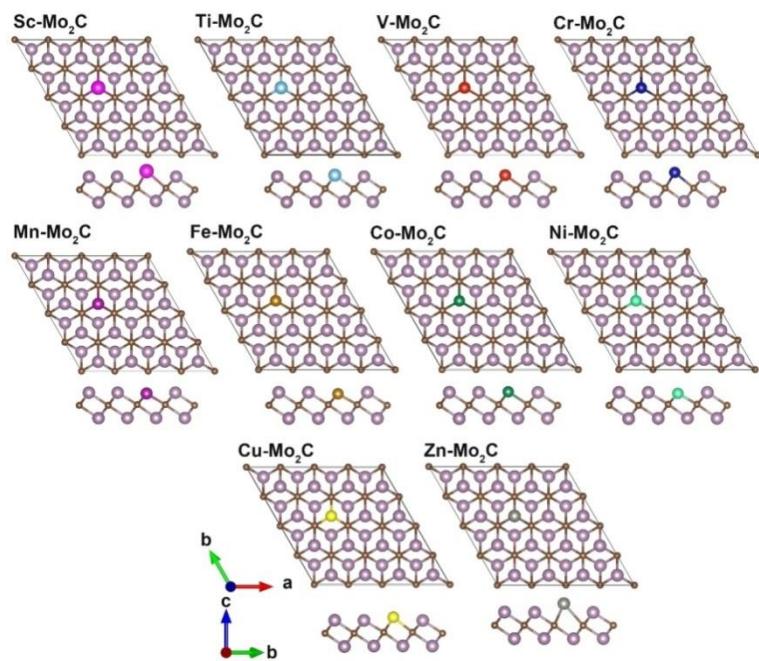
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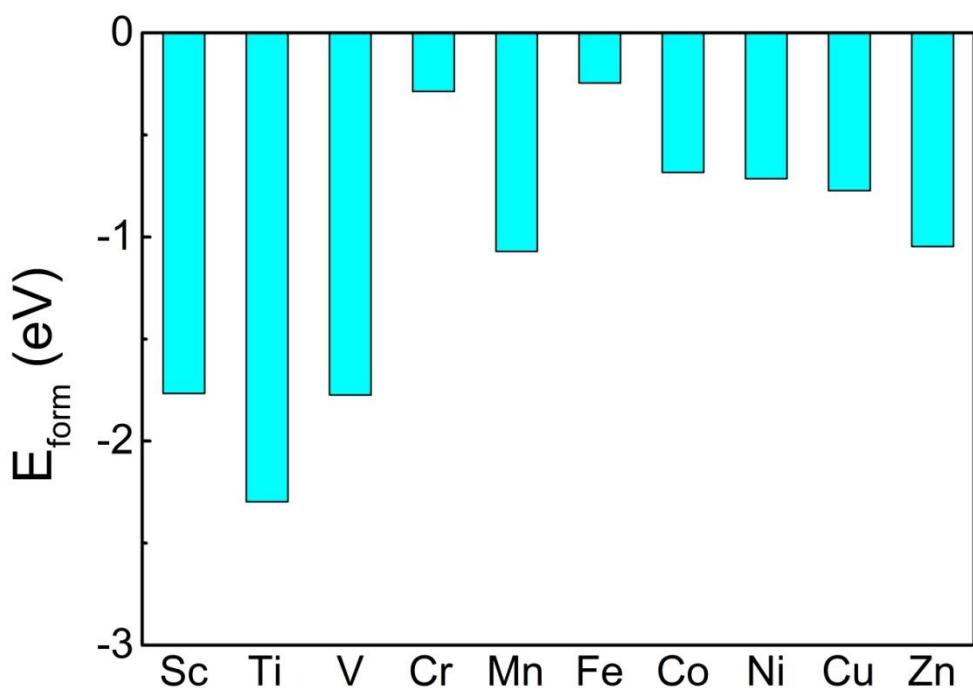
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**Table S1** The total energy ( $E_{DFT}$ , eV), zero-point energy ( $E_{ZPE}$ , eV) and entropy ( $TS$ , eV) of CO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O.

Species	$E_{DFT}$ (eV)	$E_{ZPE}$ (eV)	$TS$ (eV)
CO <sub>2</sub>	-23.02	0.31	0.65
H <sub>2</sub>	-6.78	0.27	0.42
H <sub>2</sub> O	-14.23	0.58	0.65



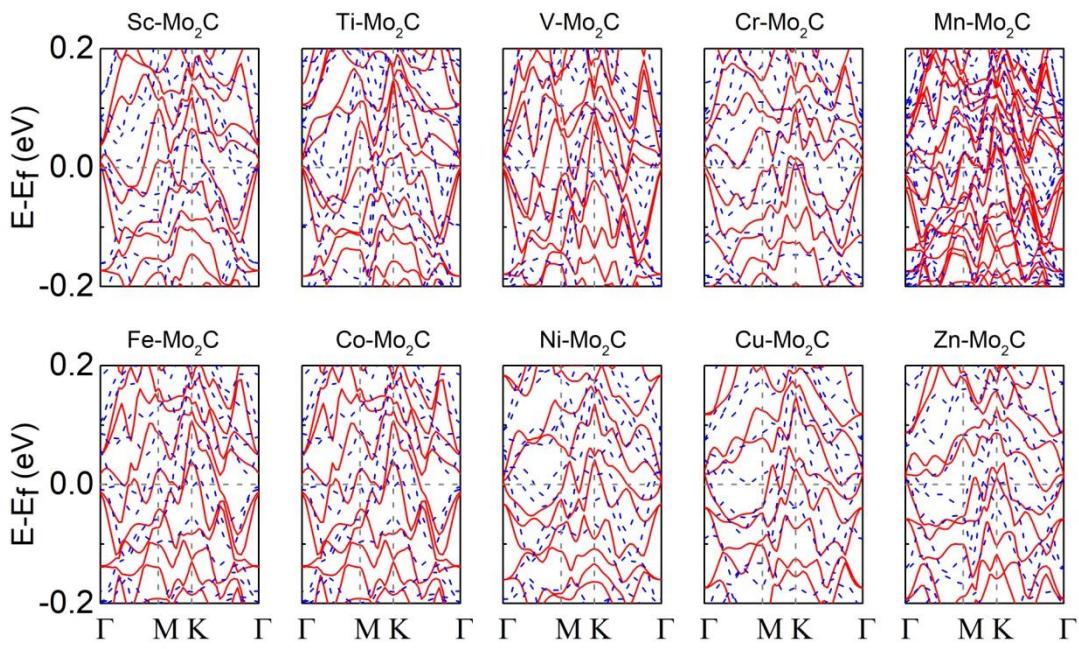
**Fig. S1.** Top and side views for optimized structures of TM-doped Mo<sub>2</sub>C (TM=Tc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu and Zn).



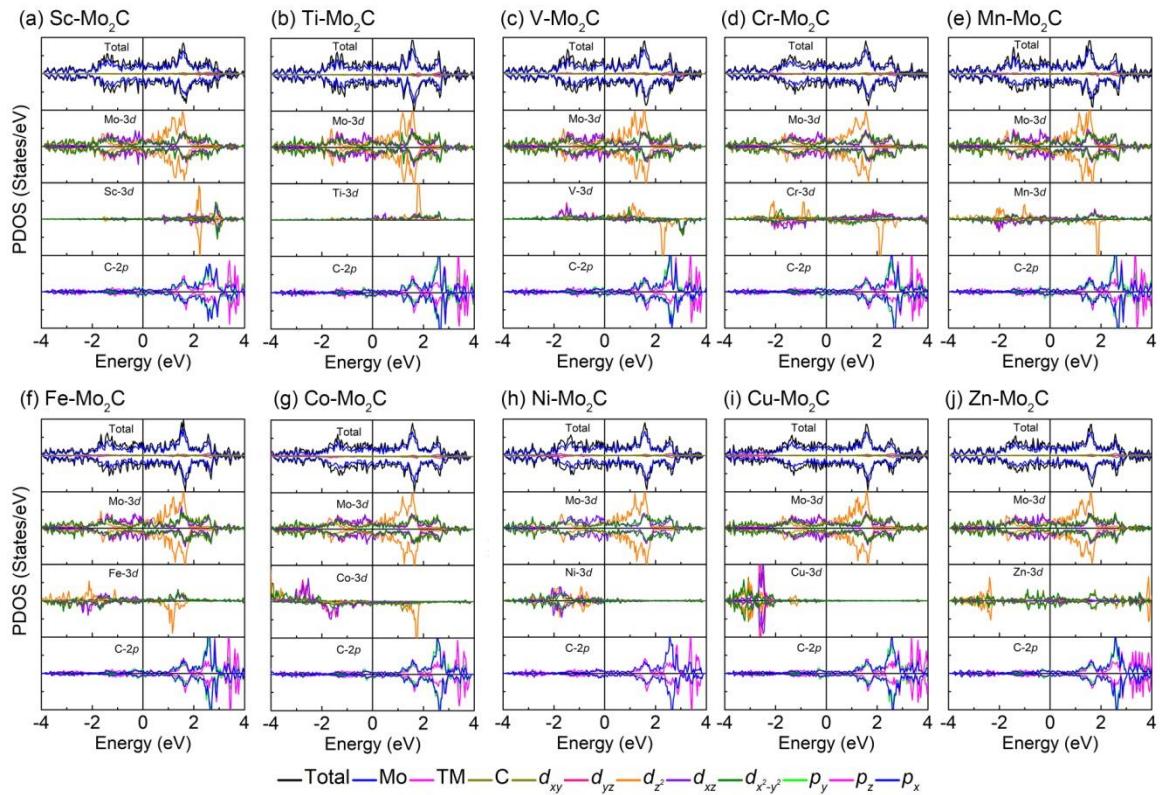
**Fig. S2.** The formation energies of TM-doped  $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$  (TM=Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu and Zn).

**Table S2** The lattice parameters ( $a=b$ ), bond length of Mo-C/TM-C ( $d_{\text{Mo-C}}/d_{\text{TM-C}}$ ) and the magnetic moments of TM and TM-Mo<sub>2</sub>C (TM=Tc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu and Zn).

TM-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn
$a=b$ (Å)	12.12	12.10	12.10	12.10	12.07
$d_{\text{Mo-C}}$ (Å)	2.09	2.09	2.09	2.09	2.10
$d_{\text{TM-C}}$ (Å)	2.34	2.13	2.13	2.24	1.97
TM ( $\mu_B$ )	0	-0.061	1.992	-0.247	-0.102
Magnetic moment ( $\mu_B$ )	2.88	2.40	5.54	3.73	4.34
TM-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn
$a=b$ (Å)	12.07	12.07	12.07	12.07	12.04
$d_{\text{Mo-C1}}$ (Å)	2.09	2.10	2.10	2.09	2.07
$d_{\text{TM-C1}}$ (Å)	1.96	2.05	1.96	2.17	2.57
TM	-0.57	1.91	0.02	-0.004	-0.001
Magnetic moment ( $\mu_B$ )	2.83	4.55	2.69	1.97	1.82



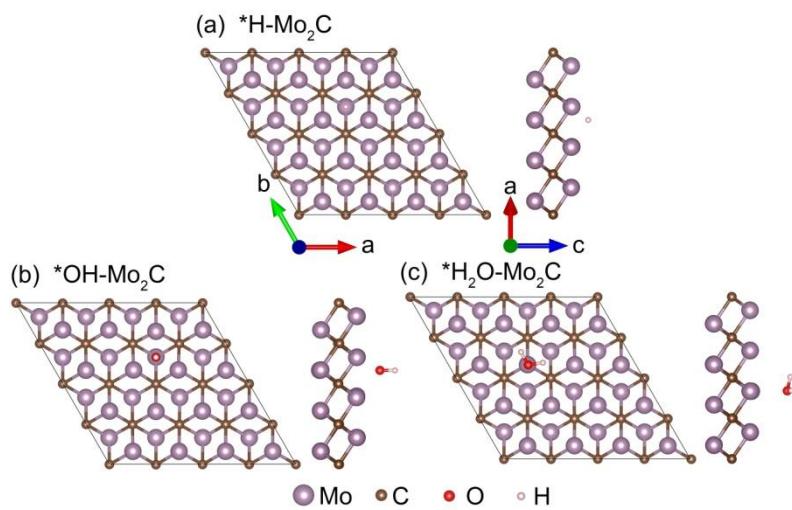
**Fig. S3.** The band st the energy of isolated TM atom (TM=Tc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu and Zn).



**Fig. S4.** The partial density of states of TM-doped  $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$  (TM=Tc, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu and Zn).

**Table S3** The total energies of \*H-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, \*OH-Mo<sub>2</sub>C, \*H<sub>2</sub>O-Mo<sub>2</sub>C and \*CO<sub>2</sub>-Mo<sub>2</sub>C  $E_{\text{total}}$  (eV), the adsorption energies of H, OH, H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>  $E_{\text{ads}}$  (eV) and the gibbs free energies of \*H, \*OH, \*H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub>  $\Delta G$  (eV)

	$E_{\text{total}}$	$E_{\text{ads}}$	$\Delta G$
*H-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	-371.19	-1.75	-1.79
*OH-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	-379.01	-2.12	-1.72
*H <sub>2</sub> O-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	-381.94	-1.66	-1.21
*CO <sub>2</sub> -Mo <sub>2</sub> C	-391.14	0.43	0.90



**Fig. S5.** Top and side views of optimized structure for (a) H, (b) OH and (c)  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  adsorbed on the bridge sites of pure  $\text{Mo}_2\text{C}$ .

**Table S4** The charge transfer of each element for pure Mo<sub>2</sub>C and TM-Mo<sub>2</sub>C (TM= Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu) with CO<sub>2</sub> adsorbed over the bridge active sites.

Charge Transfer	Mo <sub>2</sub> C	Cr-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	Mn-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	Fe-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	Co-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	Ni-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	Cu-Mo <sub>2</sub> C
Mo	0.72	-1.08	-1.09	-1.12	-1.12	-1.14	-1.13
				-0.41	-0.39	-0.27	-0.22
TM	-0.75	-1.03	-1.02		-1.12	-1.12	-1.14
				-1.12		-1.14	-1.23
C	-1.21	-1.22	-1.24	-1.23	-1.22	-1.08	-1.22
O1	1.08	1.12	1.14	1.09	1.09	1.08	1.08
O2	1.08	1.06	1.06	1.09	1.09	1.07	1.08

**Table S5** The gibbs free energy ( $\Delta G$ , eV), adsorbed energy ( $\Delta E_{DFT}$ , eV), entropy ( $\Delta TS$ , eV) and zero-point energy ( $\Delta E_{ZPE}$ , eV) corrections in determining the free energy of intermediates adsorbed on pure Mo<sub>2</sub>C and TM-Mo<sub>2</sub>C (TM= Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, and Cu).

		Path way	$\Delta G$	$\Delta E_{DFT}$	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	$\Delta TS$
Mo <sub>2</sub> C	1	*H	0.90	0.43	-0.01	-0.48
	2	*CO <sub>2</sub> →*COOH	0.19	-0.16	0.16	-0.19
	3	*COOH→*CO	-0.45	-0.07	0.02	0.40
	4	*CO→*CHO	0.16	-0.23	0.15	-0.25
	4	*CO→*COH	0.46	0.13	0.14	-0.19
	5	*CHO→*CHOH	1.36	1.00	0.16	-0.20
	5	*CHO→*CH <sub>2</sub> O	3.00	2.86	-0.02	-0.16
	6	*CHOH→*CH <sub>2</sub> OH	-0.28	-0.65	0.19	-0.18
	6	*CH <sub>2</sub> O→*CH <sub>2</sub> OH	-1.91	-2.50	0.38	-0.21
	7	*CH <sub>2</sub> OH→*CH <sub>2</sub>	-4.48	-4.08	-0.05	0.35
	8	*CH <sub>2</sub> →*CH <sub>3</sub>	-0.17	-0.51	0.15	-0.19
	9	*CH <sub>3</sub> →*CH <sub>4</sub>	0.51	0.27	0.20	-0.04

		Path way	$\Delta G$	$\Delta E_{DFT}$	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	$\Delta TS$
Fe-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	1	*CO <sub>2</sub>	-0.86	-1.35	0.00	-0.49
	2	*CO <sub>2</sub> →*COOH	0.66	0.32	0.17	-0.17
	3	*COOH→*CO	-0.77	-0.44	0.03	0.36
	4	*CO→*CHO	0.41	0.09	0.09	-0.23
	5	*CHO→*CHOH	0.43	0.05	0.19	-0.19
	5	*CHO→*CH <sub>2</sub> O	-1.40	-1.76	0.17	-0.19
	6	*CHOH→*CH <sub>2</sub> OH	-0.15	-0.51	0.17	-0.19
	6	*CH <sub>2</sub> O→*CH <sub>2</sub> OH	1.68	1.30	0.19	-0.18
	7	*CH <sub>2</sub> OH→*CH <sub>2</sub>	-0.72	-0.33	-0.02	0.37
	8	*CH <sub>2</sub> →*CH <sub>3</sub>	-0.19	-0.56	0.17	-0.20
	9	*CH <sub>3</sub> →*CH <sub>4</sub>	0.58	0.32	0.18	-0.08

		Path way	$\Delta G$	$\Delta E_{DFT}$	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	$\Delta TS$
Co-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	1	*CO <sub>2</sub>	-0.91	-1.39	0.00	-0.48
	2	*CO <sub>2</sub> →*COOH	0.58	0.23	0.17	-0.18
	3	*COOH→*CO	-0.56	-0.24	0.03	0.35
	4	*CO→*CHO	0.36	0.14	0.06	-0.16
	5	*CHO→*CHOH	0.85	0.44	0.19	-0.21
	6	*CHO→*CH <sub>2</sub> O	-0.33	-0.78	0.20	-0.25
	7	*CHOH→*CH <sub>2</sub> OH	-0.60	-0.98	0.18	-0.20
	8	*CH <sub>2</sub> O→*CH <sub>2</sub> OH	0.57	0.24	0.17	-0.16
	9	*CH <sub>2</sub> OH→*CH <sub>2</sub>	-0.64	-0.30	-0.01	0.33
		*CH <sub>2</sub> →*CH <sub>3</sub>	-0.31	-0.68	0.18	-0.19
		*CH <sub>3</sub> →*CH <sub>4</sub>	0.50	0.34	0.19	0.03

		Path way	$\Delta G$	$\Delta E_{DFT}$	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	$\Delta TS$
Cu-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	1	*CO <sub>2</sub>	-0.87	-1.36	0.00	-0.49
	2	*CO <sub>2</sub> →*COOH	0.57	0.25	0.16	-0.16
	3	*COOH→*CO	-0.54	-0.23	0.03	0.34
	4	*CO→*CHO	0.36	0.13	0.06	-0.17
	5	*CHO→*CHOH	1.10	0.76	0.17	-0.17
	6	*CHO→*CH <sub>2</sub> O	0.02	-0.43	0.22	-0.23
	7	*CHOH→*CH <sub>2</sub> OH	-0.38	-0.84	0.22	-0.24
	8	*CH <sub>2</sub> O→*CH <sub>2</sub> OH	0.69	0.35	0.17	-0.17
	9	*CH <sub>2</sub> OH→*CH <sub>2</sub>	-0.74	-0.39	-0.01	0.34
		*CH <sub>2</sub> →*CH <sub>3</sub>	-0.14	-0.47	0.16	-0.17
		*CH <sub>3</sub> →*CH <sub>4</sub>	-0.07	-0.29	0.18	-0.04

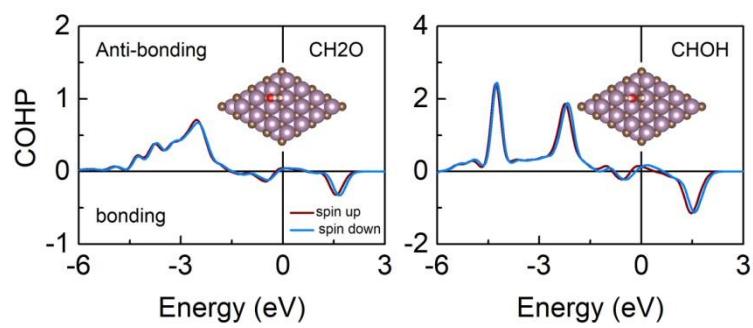
		Path way	$\Delta G$	$\Delta E_{DFT}$	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	$\Delta TS$
Cr-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	1	*CO <sub>2</sub>	-0.73	-1.20	-0.01	-0.48
	2	*CO <sub>2</sub> →*COOH	-1.40	-1.81	0.19	-0.22
	3	*COOH→*CO	-0.36	0.03	0.00	0.39
	4	*CO→*CHO	0.38	0.04	0.14	-0.20

		$*\text{CHO} \rightarrow *\text{CHOH}$	0.36	-0.04	0.17	-0.23
5		$*\text{CHO} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{O}$	-0.07	-0.42	0.11	-0.24
	6	$*\text{CHOH} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	-0.08	-0.44	0.16	-0.20
	6	$*\text{CH}_2\text{O} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	0.34	-0.06	0.22	-0.18
7		$*\text{CH}_2\text{OH} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2$	-0.86	-0.45	-0.03	0.38
8		$*\text{CH}_2 \rightarrow *\text{CH}_3$	-0.07	-0.43	0.17	-0.19
9		$*\text{CH}_3 \rightarrow *\text{CH}_4$	0.23	-0.06	0.21	-0.08

		Path way	$\Delta G$	$\Delta E_{DFT}$	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	$\Delta TS$
Mn-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	1	$*\text{CO}_2$	-2.50	-2.95	-0.01	-0.46
	2	$*\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow *\text{COOH}$	0.65	0.30	0.18	-0.17
	3	$*\text{COOH} \rightarrow *\text{CO}$	-1.29	-1.05	-0.54	-0.30
	4	$*\text{CO} \rightarrow *\text{CHO}$	0.23	-0.05	0.07	-0.21
	5	$*\text{CHO} \rightarrow *\text{CHOH}$	0.58	0.22	0.17	-0.19
	5	$*\text{CHO} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{O}$	0.12	-0.29	0.17	-0.24
	6	$*\text{CHOH} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	-0.01	-0.47	0.22	-0.24
	6	$*\text{CH}_2\text{O} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	0.45	0.05	0.22	-0.18
	7	$*\text{CH}_2\text{OH} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2$	-0.46	-0.04	-0.04	0.38
	8	$*\text{CH}_2 \rightarrow *\text{CH}_3$	-0.65	-1.02	0.18	-0.19
	9	$*\text{CH}_3 \rightarrow *\text{CH}_4$	0.67	0.38	0.20	-0.09

		Path way	$\Delta G$	$\Delta E_{DFT}$	$\Delta E_{ZPE}$	$\Delta TS$
Ni-Mo <sub>2</sub> C	1	$*\text{CO}_2$	-0.67	-1.13	-0.03	-0.49
	2	$*\text{CO}_2 \rightarrow *\text{COOH}$	0.53	0.15	0.17	-0.21
	3	$*\text{COOH} \rightarrow *\text{CO}$	-0.60	-0.44	0.24	0.40
	4	$*\text{CO} \rightarrow *\text{CHO}$	0.17	0.11	-0.13	-0.19
	5	$*\text{CHO} \rightarrow *\text{CHOH}$	0.435	-0.005	0.21	-0.23
	5	$*\text{CHO} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{O}$	-0.30	-0.74	0.20	-0.24
	6	$*\text{CHOH} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	-0.23	-0.58	0.17	-0.18
	6	$*\text{CH}_2\text{O} \rightarrow *\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	0.51	0.15	0.18	-0.18

7	$^*\text{CH}_2\text{OH} \rightarrow ^*\text{CH}_2$	-0.25	-0.25	0.44	0.44
8	$^*\text{CH}_2 \rightarrow ^*\text{CH}_3$	-0.63	-0.61	-0.29	-0.27
9	$^*\text{CH}_3 \rightarrow ^*\text{CH}_4$	0.61	0.35	0.18	-0.08



**Fig. S6.** The optimized structures and COHP of Mo<sub>2</sub>C with CH<sub>2</sub>O and CHOH intermediates adsorbed on Mo atoms.