

## Supplementary Materials

**Table S1.** Calculated reaction energetics (in kcal/mol) of the S<sub>N</sub>2 and E2 pathways for the ethyl halide systems at the CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ//MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ level.

	S <sub>N</sub> 2		E2	
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$
ClO <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Cl	-7.1(-6.8) <sup>a</sup>	-24.4(-23.2)	0.0(-3.5)	-2.8(-5.5)
BrO <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Cl	-6.7(-6.5)	-23.8(-22.8)	0.1(-3.5)	-1.1(-4.0)
HS <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Br	-2.8(-2.6)	-26.2(-24.4)	9.6(6.0)	-2.7(-6.4)
CN <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> I	-2.3(-1.9)	-41.3(-38.9)	8.4(5.0)	-7.3(-9.5)

<sup>a</sup>Energy in the parentheses including the zero-point energy.

**Table S2.** Calculated reaction energetics (in kcal/mol), the xperimental and theoretical rate constants (in  $\text{cm}^3 \text{molecule}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) and KIEs of the  $\text{S}_{\text{N}}2$  reactions (with low or small barrier heights) in the gas phase at various levels of theory.

$\text{ClO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Cl} / \text{ClO}^- + \text{CD}_3\text{Cl}^a$									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	$\text{KIE}^{\text{TST}}$	$\text{KIE}^{\text{expt}}$
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-9.1	-29.3	1.55(-06) <sup>f</sup>		1.045	1.616	1.009	1.704	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-9.2	-28.3	6.05(-07)		1.045	1.616	0.568	0.958	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-8.0	-26.1	5.81(-08)		1.045	1.616	0.510	0.861	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-10.5	-27.1	1.66(-05)		1.045	1.613	0.638	1.076	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-10.6	-26.1	2.56(-05)	2.01(-10)	1.045	1.611	0.669	1.126	0.85 ± 0.01
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-9.2	-24.1	1.15(-06)		1.045	1.612	0.553	0.932	
MP2/6-31+G**	-5.9	-27.6	2.76(-09)		1.045	1.615	0.542	0.914	
MP2/6-311+G**	-4.8	-27.3	4.26(-10)		1.045	1.569	0.354	0.581	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-8.5	-26.5	1.34(-07)		1.045	1.617	0.527	0.891	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-6.7	-23.1	7.00(-09)		1.045	1.615	0.554	0.935	
$\text{ClO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl} / \text{ClO}^- + \text{CD}_3\text{CD}_2\text{Cl}^a$									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	$\text{KIE}^{\text{TST}}$	$\text{KIE}^{\text{expt}}$
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-8.6	-30.6	2.10(-08)		1.050	1.310	0.679	0.934	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-8.9	-29.7	3.27(-08)		1.050	1.310	0.637	0.876	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-7.0	-27.2	1.31(-09)		1.050	1.310	0.632	0.870	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-9.3	-28.4	4.02(-07)	2.25(-10)	1.050	1.310	0.785	1.079	0.99 ± 0.01
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-9.7	-27.4	8.69(-07)		1.050	1.309	0.801	1.100	
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-7.9	-25.2	8.69(-07)		1.050	1.309	0.801	1.100	
MP2/6-31+G**	-5.0	-28.8	1.62(-10)		1.050	1.310	0.747	1.027	
MP2/6-311+G**	-4.4	-28.5	5.10(-11)		1.050	1.310	0.763	1.049	

MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-8.0	-27.6	1.58(-08)		1.050	1.310	0.718	0.987	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-6.0	-24.5	5.54(-10)		1.050	1.308	0.736	1.011	
BrO <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> Cl / BrO <sup>-</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> Cl <sup>a</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-8.3	-27.3	1.85(-07)		1.059	1.622	0.601	1.033	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-7.5	-25.9	3.11(-08)		1.059	1.623	0.563	0.968	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-6.2	-49.7	3.29(-09)		1.059	1.625	0.586	1.008	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-10.0	-26.2	5.80(-06)		1.059	1.615	0.635	1.086	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-9.3	-24.8	2.61(-06)	1.08(-10)	1.059	1.616	0.716	1.226	0.82 ± 0.03
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-8.0	-23.3	1.57(-07)		1.059	1.619	0.600	1.028	
MP2/6-31+G**	-5.3	-24.8	9.28(-10)		1.059	1.620	0.534	0.916	
MP2/6-311+G**	-3.6	-24.9	6.64(-11)		1.059	1.620	0.555	0.952	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-8.2	-26.3	9.10(-08)		1.059	1.625	0.520	0.894	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-6.4	-22.6	5.13(-09)		1.059	1.623	0.548	0.942	
BrO <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Cl / BrO <sup>-</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> CD <sub>2</sub> Cl <sup>a</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-8.7	-29.7	1.70(-08)		1.069	1.310	0.688	0.963	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-7.0	-27.1	1.17(-09)		1.069	1.311	0.663	0.928	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-5.5	-25.2	5.88(-11)		1.069	1.312	0.611	0.857	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-9.7	-28.6	4.04(-07)		1.069	1.308	0.764	1.068	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-8.2	-26.0	7.23(-08)	1.07(-10)	1.069	1.309	0.769	1.076	0.96 ± 0.03
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-6.6	-24.4	4.93(-09)		1.069	1.311	0.708	0.992	
MP2/6-31+G**	-5.3	-27.2	1.50(-10)		1.069	1.310	0.733	1.026	
MP2/6-311+G**	-3.1	-26.2	6.22(-12)		1.069	1.311	0.756	1.060	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-7.9	-27.8	1.33(-08)		1.069	1.312	0.710	0.995	

MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	−6.0	−24.4	6.20(−10)		1.069	1.310	0.733	1.027	
HS <sup>−</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Br / HS <sup>−</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> CD <sub>2</sub> Br <sup>b</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	−5.0	−26.7	2.00(−10)		1.016	1.272	0.802	1.036	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	−5.0	−31.2	4.03(−10)		1.016	1.273	0.808	1.044	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	−5.7	−31.8	9.56(−10)		1.016	1.273	0.788	1.019	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	−6.6	−25.2	1.78(−08)		1.016	1.273	0.842	1.088	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	−6.8	−29.3	7.79(−08)	1.95(−10)	1.016	1.275	0.877	1.136	1.02 ± 0.07
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	−6.8	−29.7	7.00(−08)		1.016	1.275	0.848	1.098	
MP2/6-31+G**	−2.4	−32.8	1.45(−11)		1.016	1.272	0.850	1.098	
MP2/6-311+G**	−0.4	−33.9	1.02(−12)		1.016	1.272	0.907	1.171	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	−3.0	−28.8	4.06(−11)		1.016	1.271	0.831	1.073	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	−1.5	−26.3	3.02(−12)		1.016	1.270	0.842	1.087	
Cl <sup>−</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> I / Cl <sup>−</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> I <sup>b</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	−7.2	−15.9	4.88(−07)		1.006	1.230	0.758	0.937	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	−6.9	−16.3	3.21(−07)		1.006	1.230	0.765	0.947	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	−8.1	−17.7	2.13(−06)		1.006	1.230	0.739	0.915	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	−8.7	−13.7	7.33(−06)		1.006	1.229	0.775	0.958	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	−8.9	−14.4	1.28(−05)	1.66(−10)	1.006	1.229	0.795	0.984	0.84 ± 0.02
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	−9.3	−15.4	1.82(−05)		1.006	1.229	0.762	0.943	
MP2/6-31+G**	−5.3	−20.9	1.65(−08)		1.006	1.229	0.733	0.906	
MP2/6-311+G**	−2.8	−19.1	3.17(−10)		1.006	1.231	0.764	0.946	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	−4.2	−11.9	2.32(−09)		1.006	1.231	0.717	0.889	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	−3.0	−10.5	3.10(−10)		1.006	1.231	0.738	0.914	
CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	−4.1	−10.7	2.71(−09)		1.006	1.231	0.758	0.939	

Br <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> I / Br <sup>-</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> I <sup>b</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-7.9	-10.4	1.43(-06)		1.011	1.240	0.756	0.949	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-4.2	-7.5	4.06(-09)		1.011	1.241	0.769	0.965	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-5.2	-7.2	1.93(-08)		1.011	1.240	0.740	0.928	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-9.1	-9.3	1.44(-05)		1.011	1.239	0.778	0.975	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-6.4	-7.1	2.55(-07)		1.011	1.239	0.811	1.016	
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-6.8	-6.9	3.26(-07)	2.89(-11)	1.011	1.239	0.765	0.959	0.76 ± 0.03
MP2/6-31+G**	-2.3	-11.2	1.11(-10)		1.011	1.240	0.741	0.929	
MP2/6-311+G**	0.1	-9.2	3.74(-12)		1.011	1.242	0.797	1.001	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-2.5	-5.2	1.71(-10)		1.011	1.241	0.731	0.918	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ an <sup>g</sup>	-2.5	-5.2	1.72(-10)		1.011	1.241	0.751	0.943	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ an vibrot <sup>h</sup>	-2.5	-5.2	1.67(-10)		1.011	1.241	0.723	0.907	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-1.8	-4.6	6.01(-11)		1.011	1.241	0.760	0.954	
CN <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> I / CN <sup>-</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> I <sup>c</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-8.7	-52.9	3.20(-07)		1.005	1.228	0.767	0.946	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-8.1	-52.5	1.93(-07)		1.005	1.228	0.753	0.928	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-8.7	-52.6	5.84(-07)		1.005	1.228	0.739	0.912	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-9.4	-51.2	1.25(-06)		1.005	1.227	0.771	0.950	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-9.2	-51.9	1.35(-06)	1.28(-10)	1.005	1.227	0.788	0.972	0.84 ± 0.03
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-9.6	-51.7	2.38(-06)		1.005	1.227	0.758	0.934	
MP2/6-31+G**	-6.4	-55.6	1.36(-08)		1.005	1.227	0.728	0.898	
MP2/6-311+G**	-3.7	-51.7	4.63(-10)		1.005	1.229	0.747	0.923	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-6.4	-48.8	4.39(-09)		1.005	1.229	0.713	0.881	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-4.6	-45.6	2.32(-10)		1.005	1.229	0.715	0.883	

CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	−5.4	−43.7	1.04(−09)		1.005	1.228	0.731	0.902	
CN <sup>−</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> I / CN <sup>−</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> CD <sub>2</sub> I <sup>c</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	−6.0	−51.5	2.34(−09)		1.007	1.265	0.742	0.944	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	−5.6	−51.3	8.04(−10)		1.007	1.266	0.715	0.911	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	−6.1	−51.0	5.50(−09)		1.007	1.262	0.717	0.911	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	−6.1	−49.9	5.49(−09)		1.007	1.270	0.769	0.983	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	−6.2	−50.6	7.44(−09)	2.99(−11)	1.007	1.270	0.784	1.003	0.89 ± 0.02
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	−6.4	−50.3	1.27(−08)		1.007	1.270	0.761	0.973	
MP2/6-31+G**	−2.6	−53.8	3.11(−11)		1.007	1.264	0.739	0.941	
MP2/6-311+G**	−0.4	−49.9	9.28(−13)		1.007	1.264	0.765	0.974	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	−2.8	−45.9	1.52(−11)		1.007	1.264	0.724	0.921	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	−0.9	−42.9	5.48(−13)		1.007	1.263	0.727	0.924	
Cl <sup>−</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> Br / Cl <sup>−</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> Br <sup>d</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	−4.6	−5.6	3.79(−09)		1.013	1.234	0.752	0.940	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	−3.7	−8.8	1.53(−09)		1.013	1.233	0.764	0.955	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	−5.0	−10.5	1.25(−08)		1.013	1.233	0.744	0.929	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	−6.2	−4.4	8.49(−08)		1.013	1.232	0.783	0.977	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	−5.7	−7.3	6.90(−08)	2.37(−11)	1.013	1.232	0.814	1.016	0.88 ± 0.45
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	−6.3	−8.5	1.52(−07)		1.013	1.232	0.774	0.966	
MP2/6-31+G**	−1.8	−9.7	3.68(−11)		1.013	1.233	0.749	0.936	
MP2/6-311+G**	1.9	−9.9	1.53(−13)		1.013	1.235	0.782	0.978	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	−1.5	−6.7	3.22(−11)		1.013	1.234	0.732	0.915	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ an <sup>g</sup>	−1.5	−6.7	3.33(−11)		1.013	1.234	0.766	0.957	

MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ an vibrot <sup>h</sup>	-1.5	-6.7	3.28(-11)		1.013	1.234	0.738	0.923	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-0.7	-5.9	9.37(-12)		1.013	1.234	0.770	0.963	
CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-2.1	-6.2	4.93(-11)		1.013	1.233	0.775	0.967	
CH <sub>3</sub> Cl + F <sup>-</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O) / CD <sub>3</sub> Cl + F <sup>-</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O) <sup>e</sup>									
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	$\text{KIE}^{\text{TST}}$	$\text{KIE}^{\text{expt}}$
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-3.3	-23.3	3.87(-12)		1.037	1.652	0.477	0.818	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-4.4	-23.5	5.51(-11)		1.037	1.328	0.593	0.817	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-3.6	-22.5	1.15(-12)		1.037	1.668	0.456	0.790	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-6.2	-20.2	1.16(-08)		1.037	1.631	0.518	0.876	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-7.2	-20.4	1.25(-07)	1.49(-11)	1.037	1.531	0.591	0.938	0.85 ± 0.03
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-5.9	-19.4	4.68(-09)		1.037	1.641	0.491	0.835	
MP2/6-31+G**	1.2	-15.2	8.82(-14)		1.037	1.618	0.502	0.842	
MP2/6-311+G**	2.9	-15.3	8.41(-15)		1.037	1.554	0.531	0.856	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-2.7	-17.5	7.01(-12)		1.037	1.660	0.481	0.829	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-0.5	-17.0	3.63(-13)		1.037	1.655	0.513	0.882	

<sup>a</sup>Experimental values from ref. 15 at 302 K.

<sup>b</sup>Experimental values from ref. 8, calculations done at 300 K.

<sup>c</sup>Experimental values from ref. 16 at 298 K.

<sup>d</sup>Experimental values from ref. 18 at 300 K.

<sup>e</sup>Experimental values from ref. 20 at 302 K.

<sup>f</sup>1.55(-06) means  $1.55 \times 10^{-6}$

<sup>g</sup>Anharmonic frequencies were calculated at the MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ level.

<sup>h</sup>Anharmonic vibrational-rotational couplings were calculated at the MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ level.

**Table S3.** Calculated reaction energetics (in kcal/mol), and a comparison of experimental and theoretical rate constants (in  $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molecule}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ) of the  $\text{CN}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{I}$ ,  $\text{CN}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{I}$ ,  $\text{CN}^- + (\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHI}$ , and  $\text{CN}^- + (\text{CH}_3)_3\text{CI}$  reactions.<sup>a</sup>

CN <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> I / CN <sup>-</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> I											
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{cap}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	Efficiency	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-8.7	-52.9	3.20(-07) <sup>b</sup>				1.005	1.228	0.767	0.946	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-8.1	-52.5	1.93(-07)				1.005	1.228	0.753	0.928	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-8.7	-52.6	5.84(-07)				1.005	1.228	0.739	0.912	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-9.4	-51.2	1.25(-06)				1.005	1.227	0.771	0.950	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-9.2	-51.9	1.35(-06)				1.005	1.227	0.788	0.972	
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-9.6	-51.7	2.38(-06)	2.44(-09)	1.28(-10)	0.052	1.005	1.227	0.758	0.934	0.84 ± 0.03
MP2/6-31+G**	-6.4	-55.6	1.36(-08)				1.005	1.227	0.728	0.898	
MP2/6-311+G**	-3.7	-51.7	4.63(-10)				1.005	1.229	0.747	0.923	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-6.4	-48.8	4.39(-09)				1.005	1.229	0.713	0.881	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-4.6	-45.6	2.32(-10)				1.005	1.229	0.715	0.883	
CCSD(T)/aug-cc-pVTZ	-5.4	-43.7	1.04(-09)				1.005	1.228	0.731	0.902	
CN <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> I / CN <sup>-</sup> + CD <sub>3</sub> CD <sub>2</sub> I											
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{cap}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	Efficiency	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-6.0	-51.5	2.34(-09)				1.007	1.265	0.742	0.944	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-5.6	-51.3	8.04(-10)				1.007	1.266	0.715	0.911	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-6.1	-51.0	5.50(-09)				1.007	1.262	0.717	0.911	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-6.1	-49.9	5.49(-09)	2.81(-09)	2.99(-11)	0.011	1.007	1.270	0.769	0.983	0.89 ± 0.02
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-6.2	-50.6	7.44(-09)				1.007	1.270	0.784	1.003	
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-6.4	-50.3	1.27(-08)				1.007	1.270	0.761	0.973	
MP2/6-31+G**	-2.6	-53.8	3.11(-11)				1.007	1.264	0.739	0.941	



MP2/6-311+G**	-0.4	-49.9	9.28(-13)				1.007	1.264	0.765	0.974	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	-2.8	-45.9	1.52(-11)				1.007	1.264	0.724	0.921	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	-0.9	-42.9	5.48(-13)				1.007	1.263	0.727	0.924	
CN <sup>-</sup> + (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CHI / CN <sup>-</sup> + (CD <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> CDI											
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{cap}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	Efficiency	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	-2.9	-50.2	2.50(-11)				1.008	1.170	0.869	1.024	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	-2.8	-50.3	2.21(-11)				1.008	1.170	0.903	1.065	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	-3.2	-49.8	7.95(-11)				1.008	1.168	0.846	0.996	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	-2.9	-49.1	4.53(-11)				1.008	1.172	0.872	1.030	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	-3.3	-49.9	8.32(-11)	2.90(-09)	<1.00(-12)	<0.0003	1.008	1.172	0.880	1.039	
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	-3.4	-49.4	1.15(-10)				1.008	1.172	0.850	1.005	-
MP2/6-31+G**	1.5	-52.5	2.01(-14)				1.008	1.169	0.813	0.957	
MP2/6-311+G**	3.3	-48.8	8.12(-16)				1.008	1.169	0.832	0.980	
MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	1.4	-43.5	1.86(-14)				1.008	1.170	0.787	0.928	
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	3.5	-40.5	4.51(-16)				1.008	1.169	0.800	0.943	
CN <sup>-</sup> + (CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CI / CN <sup>-</sup> + (CD <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CI											
	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	$k^{\text{TST}}$	$k^{\text{cap}}$	$k^{\text{expt}}$	Efficiency	$\eta_{\text{trans}}$	$\eta_{\text{rot}}^\ddagger$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^\ddagger$	KIE <sup>TST</sup>	KIE <sup>expt</sup>
M06-2X/6-31+G**	4.1	-49.6	1.80(-14)				1.009	1.133	1.146	1.310	
M06-2X/6-311+G**	3.4	-49.9	7.52(-14)				1.009	1.133	1.236	1.413	
M06-2X/aug-cc-pVDZ	3.6	-49.2	3.87(-14)				1.009	1.134	1.131	1.293	
B3LYP/6-31+G**	3.9	-48.8	6.30(-14)	3.13(-09)	1.10(-11)	0.004	1.009	1.131	1.165	1.329	
B3LYP/6-311+G**	3.3	-49.5	2.41(-13)				1.009	1.131	1.186	1.353	>8
B3LYP/aug-cc-pVDZ	3.5	-49.0	1.53(-13)				1.009	1.131	1.160	1.324	
MP2/6-31+G**	11.9	-51.6	1.06(-18)				1.009	1.134	1.268	1.450	
MP2/6-311+G**	14.5	-48.2	3.59(-21)				1.009	1.134	1.147	1.313	

MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ	13.9	-41.6	2.42(-23)	1.009	1.129	0.767	0.873
MP2/aug-cc-pVTZ	15.9	-38.5	4.14(-26)	1.009	1.129	1.059	1.206

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<sup>a</sup>Experimental values from ref. 16 at 298 K.

<sup>b</sup>3.02(-07) means  $3.02 \times 10^{-7}$

**Table S4.** Fitted barrier heights (kcal/mol) for Table 6 at the experimental temperature.

	barrier height
$\text{ClO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$	-4.6
$\text{ClO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$	-5.5
$\text{BrO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$	-5.0
$\text{Cl}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{Br}$	-1.3
$\text{F}^-(\text{H}_2\text{O}) + \text{CH}_3\text{Cl}$	-3.2
$\text{HS}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Br}$	-4.0

**Table S5.** Calculated energies (in kcal/mol) of eleven gas-phase S<sub>N</sub>2 reactions at the MP2/aug-cc-pVDZ level.

	$\Delta V^\ddagger$	$\Delta E_{\text{rxn}}$	ion-dipole complex		zero-point energy	
			reactant-side	product-side	reactants	transition state
ClO <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> Cl	-8.5	-26.5	-13.5	-37.3	24.9	25.5
ClO <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Cl	-8.0	-27.6	-15.2	-39.5	43.1	43.4
BrO <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> Cl	-8.2	-26.3	-13.6	-36.7	24.9	25.4
BrO <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Cl	-7.9	-27.8	-15.4	-39.3	43.0	43.2
HS <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> Br	-3.0	-28.8	-12.3	-38.6	45.5	45.8
Cl <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> I	-4.2	-11.9	-11.7	-21.7	23.1	23.2
Br <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> I	-2.5	-5.2	-11.4	-15.5	23.1	23.0
CN <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> I	-6.4	-48.8	-10.8	-61.4	25.8	26.4
CN <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> I	-2.8	-45.9	-13.4	-60.3	44.1	44.6
Cl <sup>-</sup> + CH <sub>3</sub> Br	-1.5	-6.7	-11.6	-17.4	23.5	23.4
F <sup>-</sup> (H <sub>2</sub> O) + CH <sub>3</sub> Cl	-2.7	-17.5	-13.5	-27.5	38.0	39.4

**Table S6.** Factor analysis of  $\eta_{\text{vib}}^{\ddagger}$  ( $\eta_{\text{vib}}^{\ddagger} = \eta_{\text{vib,low}}^{\ddagger} \eta_{\text{vib,mid}}^{\ddagger} \eta_{\text{vib,high}}^{\ddagger}$ )<sup>a</sup> for the  $\text{ClO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ ,  $\text{BrO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$ , and  $\text{HS}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Br}$  reactions at different temperature.

T(K)	$\text{ClO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$				$\text{BrO}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}$				$\text{HS}^- + \text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{Br}$			
	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,low}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,mid}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,high}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,low}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,mid}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,high}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,low}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,mid}}^{\ddagger}$	$\eta_{\text{vib,high}}^{\ddagger}$
100	0.636	0.733	1.401	0.620	0.639	0.724	1.414	0.625	0.957	0.819	2.150	0.543
200	0.703	0.754	1.183	0.787	0.698	0.743	1.188	0.790	0.868	0.806	1.463	0.737
300	0.717	0.759	1.109	0.853	0.710	0.746	1.112	0.855	0.831	0.803	1.269	0.816
400	0.719	0.760	1.066	0.887	0.710	0.748	1.068	0.889	0.807	0.801	1.172	0.859
500	0.718	0.761	1.038	0.909	0.708	0.748	1.039	0.911	0.791	0.801	1.116	0.886
600	0.718	0.761	1.020	0.925	0.707	0.748	1.020	0.926	0.782	0.801	1.080	0.905

<sup>a</sup>“low” denotes contributions from mode with  $\nu_i < 500 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; “high” denotes contributions from mode with  $\nu_i > 2000 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; and “mid” denotes the remaining contributions from the middle frequencies.