

Bremen, 10-Feb-2021

Letter to Editor

for manuscript Buchwitz et al., MS No. amt-2020-386

“Can a regional-scale reduction of atmospheric CO₂ during the COVID-19 pandemic be detected from space? A case study for East China using satellite XCO₂ retrievals”

Dear Editor,

We have (again) revised our manuscript. We modified our manuscript to take this comment (and only this comment) into account:

Associate Editor Decision: Publish subject to minor revisions (review by editor) (10 Feb 2021) by Ralf Sussmann

Comments to the Author:

Thanks for performing changes as requested by the referees. We have two requests prior to final acceptance.

1. We do not agree to some revisions performed within the 5th paragraph of the Introduction (Author's tracked changes lines 98-120):

TCCON observations have been the first XCO₂ measurements used to explore a COVID-19 impact - published in July 2020. So we would consider it fair, that reference to this TCCON work should be made at the very beginning of this paragraph (as was in the original manuscript) and not at the end of this paragraph as done in the revised manuscript - after referring to various subsequent studies all published after October 2020. I.e., we request to use the original wording for referencing to the previous work by TCCON.

2. Properly use the doi and not a journal-weblink within the reference to TCCON work.

This means that we exactly modified the manuscript as requested by items 1. and 2. This can also be seen in the track changes pdf file which we submit along with the revised manuscript.

We hope that the manuscript is now acceptable for publication in Atmos. Meas. Tech.

Many thanks for acting as Editor for our manuscript! This is very much appreciated!

With kind regards,

Michael Buchwitz

(on behalf of all co-authors)

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