

## ***Interactive comment on “Determining the stable isotope composition of pore water from saturated and unsaturated zone core: improvements to the direct vapor equilibration laser spectroscopy method” by M. J. Hendry et al.***

### **Anonymous Referee #2**

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#### Anonymous Reviewer #2:

I have completed my review of this manuscript and recommend publishing in its current form. I seldom have such clear recommendations, but this ms makes a very good contribution to the community of researchers focusing on porewaters in aquitards. The methods that the authors have tested here will be very useful to a number of researchers, and so this publication is very timely. The writing and organization is excellent. The ms suffers from no grammatical or typographical errors that I could find,

C3378

and there are few recommendations that I can make to improve the ms. The authors might consider the following points and questions, although subsequent changes are not critical.

1. What are crystal clear bags? Is this a trademarked product or a general description?
2. In previous studies, I understand that the Ziploc bags are doubled, i.e. sealed in a second Ziploc. Was this the case here?
3. Where septum-fitted containers such as Exetainers or Isojars considered?
4. Picarro makes an accessory oven to combust organics during vapour injection. Was this device considered?
5. Figure 9: this is the reservoir effect on the residual water in the sample after loss to equilibrium of vapor in the headspace. Perhaps this could be clarified.

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C3379