

Interactive comment on “Inconsistencies between chemistry climate model and observed lower stratospheric trends since 1998” by William T. Ball et al.

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First of all, I would like to thank both referees for the time and effort they have spent in reviewing the manuscript by Ball et al. Referee 3 raised a lot of criticism and rejected the version of the manuscript published in the discussions. However, although some of the criticism is justified (and has of course been taken into account by the authors in the revised version of the manuscript) I had the strong feeling that there is a conflict of interest. Therefore, after critically reading the manuscript myself I came to the conclusion that the manuscript will be suitable for publication in ACP after revision based on the referee comments and therefore encouraged the authors to do their revision.

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This has been done now and the authors have accordingly considered all comments and criticism given by the referees and significantly improved their manuscript. Therefore, after critically reading the revised manuscript I came to the decision to accept this manuscript without a second round of reviews, but after consideration of some technical corrections.

Interactive comment on *Atmos. Chem. Phys. Discuss.*, <https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-2019-734>, 2019.

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