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Interactive comment on “Technical Note: Pitfalls with the use of enhancement ratios or normalized excess mixing ratios measured in plumes to characterize pollution sources and aging” by R. J. Yokelson et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

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The authors present a very worthwhile case for researchers to use caution when interpreting species ratios in atmospheric chemistry. I echo the comments made by D. Parrish that this technical note is indeed worthy of publishing. The example shown in Figure 1 emphasizes the importance of characterizing the background air in both the source region and the measurement region at the time of the injection and of the measurement, in what is a relatively simple case in which the plume is not considered to be encountering any other air masses than the source and measurement region. This requirement will certainly present measurement complications, but for ideal measure-

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ments, this would be the best methodology. Where these data are lacking, resulting uncertainties should be discussed.

Interactive comment on Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss., 6, 4077, 2013.

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