## **Supplementary Information**

## Tuning water-splitting mechanism on titanium dioxide surfaces through hydroxylation

Lu Wu<sup>a,b</sup>, Meijing Liao<sup>b</sup>, Bing Zhao<sup>b</sup>, Qianni Li<sup>b</sup>, Bin Liu<sup>b,\*</sup>, Yuexing Zhang<sup>a,b,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Shandong Provincial Key Laboratory of Monocrystalline Silicon Semiconductor Materials and Technology, Shandong Universities Engineering Research Center of Integrated Circuits Functional Materials and Expanded Applications, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Dezhou University, Dezhou 253023, P. R. China

<sup>b</sup> Collaborative Innovation Center for Advanced Organic Chemical Materials Co-constructed by the Province and Ministry, Ministry of Education Key Laboratory for the Synthesis and Application of Organic Functional Molecules, College of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, Hubei University, Wuhan 430062, P. R. China

\* Corresponding authors.

E-mail addresses: <u>liubin@hubu.edu.cn</u> (B. Liu), <u>zhangyuexing@sdu.edu.cn</u> (Y. Zhang)

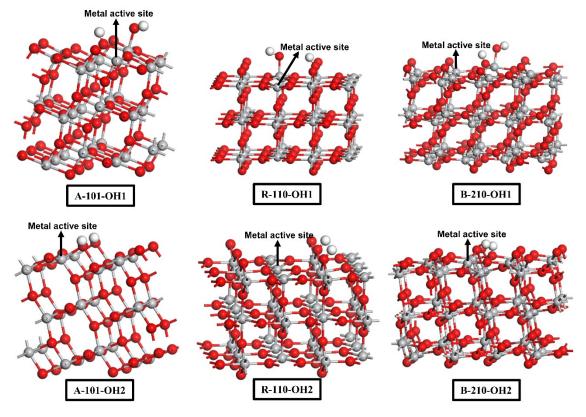


Fig. S1. The OH1 (top) /OH2 (bottom)-type hydroxyl  $TiO_2$  surface structures of anatase (101) (left), rutile (110) (middle), and brookite (210) (right), and the active sites for the OER process are marked in the figure. Red, grey and white represent oxygen, titanium and hydrogen atoms, respectively.

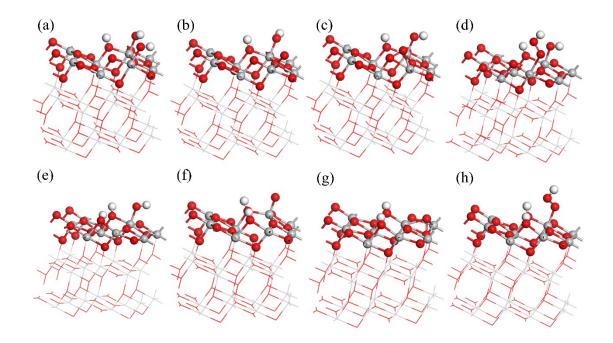


Fig. S2. The optimized structures of the adsorption intermediates of OH, Od, Op and OOH on A-101-OH1 (a-d) and A-101-OH2 (e-h) surfaces (side view).

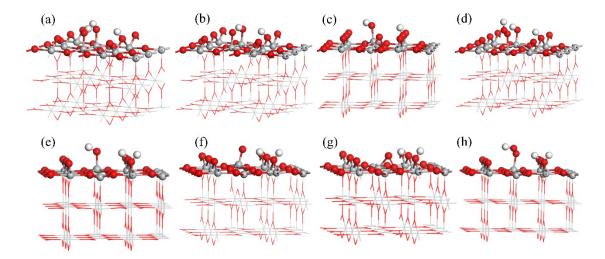


Fig. S3. The optimized structures of the adsorption intermediates of OH, Od, Op and OOH on R-110-OH1 (a-d) and R-110-OH2 (e-h) surfaces (side view).

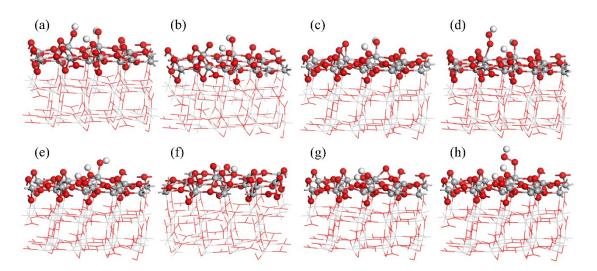


Fig. S4. The optimized structures of the adsorption intermediates of OH, Od, Op and OOH on B-210-OH1 (a-d) and B-210-OH2 (e-h) surfaces (side view).

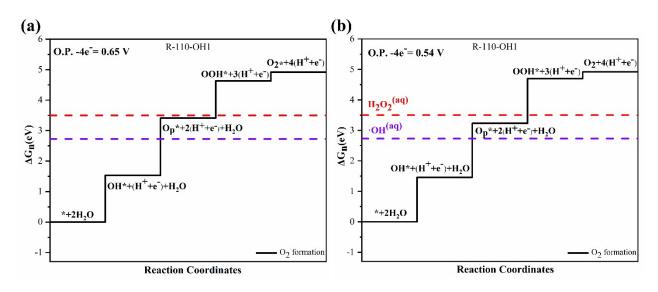


Fig. S5. The step free energy diagram of the oxygen evolution reaction process on the surface of R-110-OH1 calculated using the (a) GGA-PBE+U and (b) the GGA-PBE+D method.