

REPLY

NO MAJOR STRATIGRAPHIC GAP EXISTS NEAR THE MIDDLE–UPPER PENNSYLVANIAN (DESMOINESIAN–MISSOURIAN) BOUNDARY IN NORTH AMERICA: PALAIOS, v. 26, no. 3, p. 125–139, 2011.

HOWARD J. FALCON-LANG,^{1*} PHILIP H. HECKEL,² WILLIAM A. DIMICHELE,³ BASCOMBE M. BLAKE, JR.,⁴ CARY R. EASTERDAY,⁵ CORTLAND F. EBLE,⁶ SCOTT ELRICK,⁷ ROBERT A. GASTALDO,⁸ STEPHEN F. GREB,⁶ RONALD L. MARTINO,⁹ W. JOHN NELSON,⁷ HERMANN W. PFEFFERKORN,¹⁰ TOM L. PHILLIPS,¹¹ and STEVEN J. ROSSCOE¹²

¹Department of Earth Sciences, Royal Holloway, University of London, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, UK, h.falcon-lang@es.rhul.ac.uk; ²Department of Geoscience, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242, USA, philip-heckel@uiowa.edu; ³Department of Paleobiology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, USA, dimichel@si.edu; ⁴West Virginia Geological Survey, 1 Mont Chateau Road, Morgantown, West Virginia 26508, USA, blake@geosrv.wvnet.edu; ⁵Department of Earth Sciences, Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 North Saint Louis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625, USA, c-easterday@neiu.edu; ⁶Kentucky Geological Survey, 228 MMRB, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0107, USA, eble@uky.edu; ⁷Illinois State Geological Survey, Champaign, Illinois 61820, USA, elrick@isgs.illinois.edu, jnelson@isgs.illinois.edu; ⁸Department of Geology, Colby College, 5807 Mayflower Hill, Waterville, Maine 04901, USA, ragastal@colby.edu; ⁹Department of Geology, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia 25701, USA, stephen.greb@uky.edu; ¹⁰Department of Earth and Environmental Science, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6316, USA, hpfeffer@sas.upenn.edu; ¹¹Department of Plant Biology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801, USA, tlphilli@life.uiuc.edu; ¹²Department of Geological Sciences, Hardin-Simmons University, 2200 Hickory Street, Abilene, Texas 79698, USA, srosscoe@hsutx.edu

The comments offered by Robert Wagner on our paper do not force us to revise our conclusions in any way. We do not, as Wagner mistakenly suggests, refute the existence of a major stratigraphic gap comprising much of the Stephanian in northwest Europe. That gap is well documented, as Wagner points out. Rather, our purpose is to refute Wagner's contention that a similar gap exists in North America. In our paper, we marshal detailed and multifaceted evidence for a largely continuous Pennsylvanian succession in North America. As Wagner does not attack any of our arguments, we do not reiterate them here; the reader may refer to our publication for details (PALAIOS, v.

26, p. 125–139). Nonetheless, we thank Wagner for his discussion of the Pennsylvanian of northwest Europe and the historic evolution of stratigraphic terminology. Although these do not impact on our findings, the fact that the Cantabrian and Barruelian type sections contain marine strata is important because it will eventually allow these units to be tightly correlated within the marine-based global stratigraphic framework.

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* Corresponding author.