## **Supporting Information**

Secondary Structures in a Freeze-Dried Lignite Humic Acid Fraction Caused by Hydrogen-Bonding of Acidic Protons with Aromatic Rings

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

A <sup>13</sup>C chemical shift anisotropy (CSA) filter was inserted to the multiCP sequence to distinguish components with different chemical shift anisotropies. The multiCP sequence was also combined with recoupled long-range dipolar dephasing to probe the distances between <sup>13</sup>C nuclei and their nearest protons.

**Table S1.** Functional group composition (%) of LC2 based on <sup>13</sup>C multiCP NMR.

Sample	ppm						
	215-185	185-160	160-140	140-95	95-65	65-50	50-0
	Ketone	O-C=O,	Arom. C-O	Arom. C-C,	OC	OCH <sub>3</sub> ,	Alkyl C
		N-C=O		Arom. C-H		NCH	
LC2	3.0	12.7	15.6	42.2	6.3	5.3	14.9
Lignin	4.1	5.2	21.0	29.1	6.4	12.8	21.5

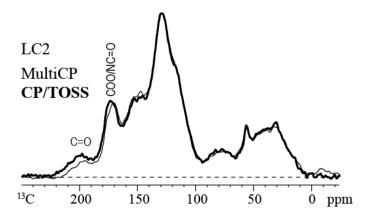


Figure S1. <sup>13</sup>C spectra of LC2 obtained by multiple cross polarization (multiCP, thin line) and <sup>13</sup>C cross polarization total sideband suppression (CP/TOSS, bold line).

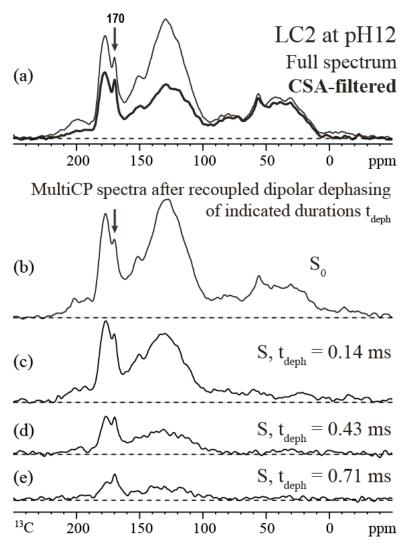


Figure S2. (a)  $^{13}$ C multiCP NMR spectra of LC2 potassium salt (at pH 12) before (thin line) and after inserting a CSA filter (bold line,  $t_{CSA} = 68 \mu s$ ). (b-e)  $^{13}$ C multiCP NMR spectra of LC2 potassium salt (at pH 12) after recoupled long-range dipolar dephasing of indicated durations.

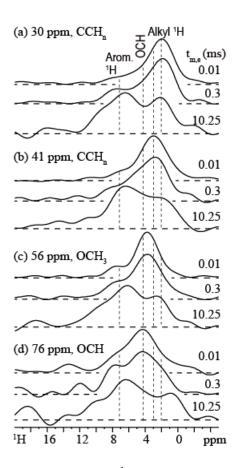


Figure S3. The <sup>1</sup>H spectra extracted at different <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts at different mixing times from 2D HETCOR NMR spectra of LC2.

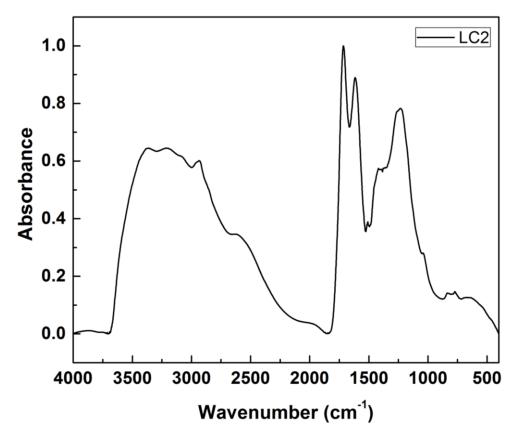


Figure S4. FT-IR spectrum of LC2.