Supporting Information for:

## Enhancing the Magnetic Anisotropy of Linear Cr(II) Chain Compounds Using Heavy Metal Substitutions

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**Figure S1**. Variable-temperature, variable-frequency *ac* magnetic susceptibility measurements of **2** (top) and **3** (bottom) under an applied *dc* field of 0.2 Tesla. Only a small frequency dependence in  $\chi''$  was observed for these compounds.



Figure S2. Arrhenius plot of the relaxation rate vs. inverse temperature for 2 (top) and 3 (bottom). The frequency dependence was too small to be meaningful for the Arrhenius analysis.



Figure S3. Magnetization of 1 with zoomed-in inset showing the highest temperature at which hysteresis is observed.



Figure S4. Magnetization of 2 with zoomed-in inset showing the highest temperature at which hysteresis is observed.



Figure S5. Magnetization of 3 with zoomed-in inset showing the highest temperature at which hysteresis is observed.



**Figure S6.** The Boltzmann population for **1** is calculated using S = 2, D = -1.643 cm<sup>-1</sup>, E/D = 0.021, and isotropic g = 1.99. The black numbers represent the M<sub>s</sub> quantum numbers in the high-field limit. At low temperatures (< 20 K) it is seen that the  $\pm 2$  states are the most populated. Variable-temperature HF-EPR allows for definitive assignment of the sign of *D* by observing changes in the EPR peak intensities upon cooling and then comparing these changes with the simulated energy level diagram and the calculated Boltzmann population.