Interactive comment on “Polar stratospheric cloud climatology based on CALIPSO spaceborne lidar measurements from 2006–2017” by Michael C. Pitts et al.

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Anonymous Referee #1 seems to have misinterpreted our definition of attenuated scattering ratio, $R'_{532}$, as defined on page 5 (lines 30–31):

$$R'_{532} = \frac{(\beta'_\text{par} + \beta'_\text{perp})}{\beta_{\text{mol}}},$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where as stated on page 5 (lines 24–25), $\beta'_\text{par}$ is the attenuated parallel backscatter and $\beta'_\text{perp}$ is the attenuated perpendicular backscatter. We use the subscript “par” to represent the parallel component of backscatter, NOT the particulate component as we think the Referee has interpreted. Therefore, our definition of $R'_{532}$ (Eq. 1 above) is equivalent to Referee #1’s Eq. 2, with the exception of the prime symbols denoting attenuated backscatter quantities.