

**Supplementary Information**

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**Isobutane aromatization over complete Lewis-acid Zn/HZSM-5  
zeolite catalyst: performance and mechanism**

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**Content**

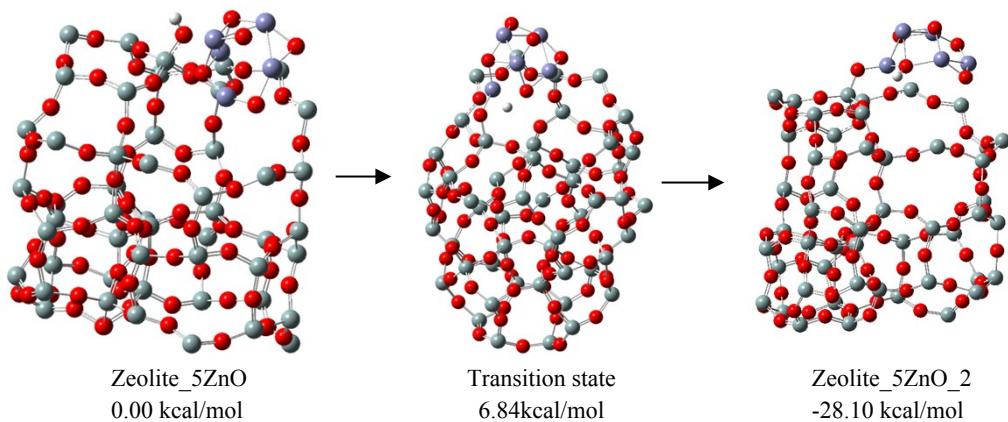
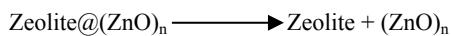
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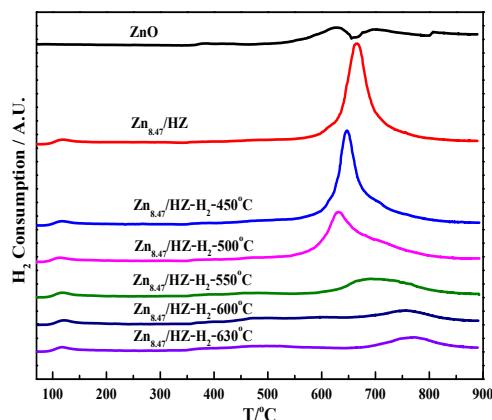
**Table S1** DFT calculation of ZnO structure inside of zeolite channel

n	1	3	5	6	7
$\Delta G$ (kcal/mol)	2.99	2.85	31.52	-303.28	-305.08

The thermodynamic stability of ZnO cluster inside of channel (873K)



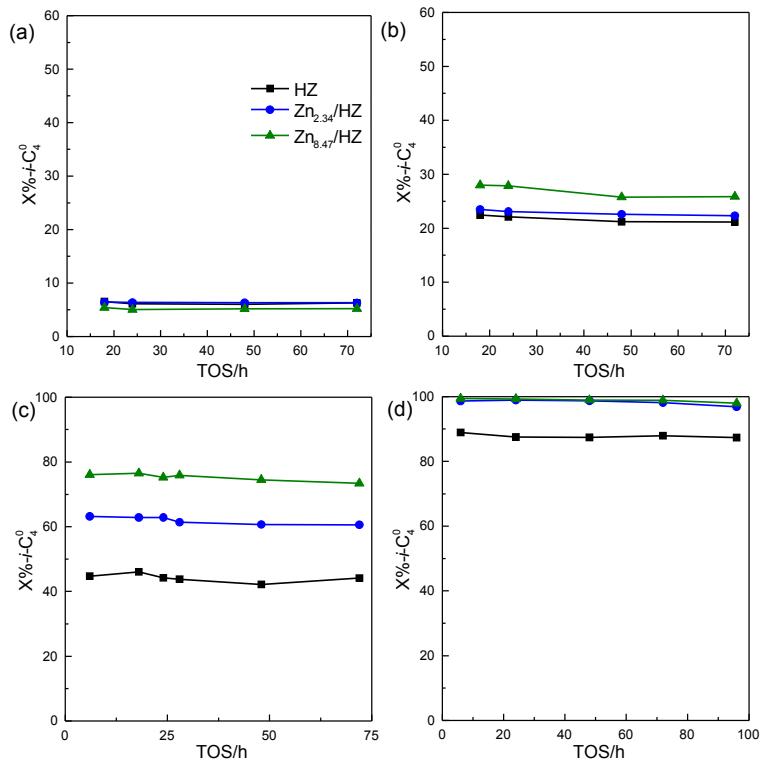
Based on the calculation, it was found that if n is not bigger than 5, the Gibbs free energies were positive, while n is bigger than 5, the Gibbs free energies were negative. It dictates that in the intersection of ZSM5,  $(\text{ZnO})_5$  cluster is the biggest and stable cluster.



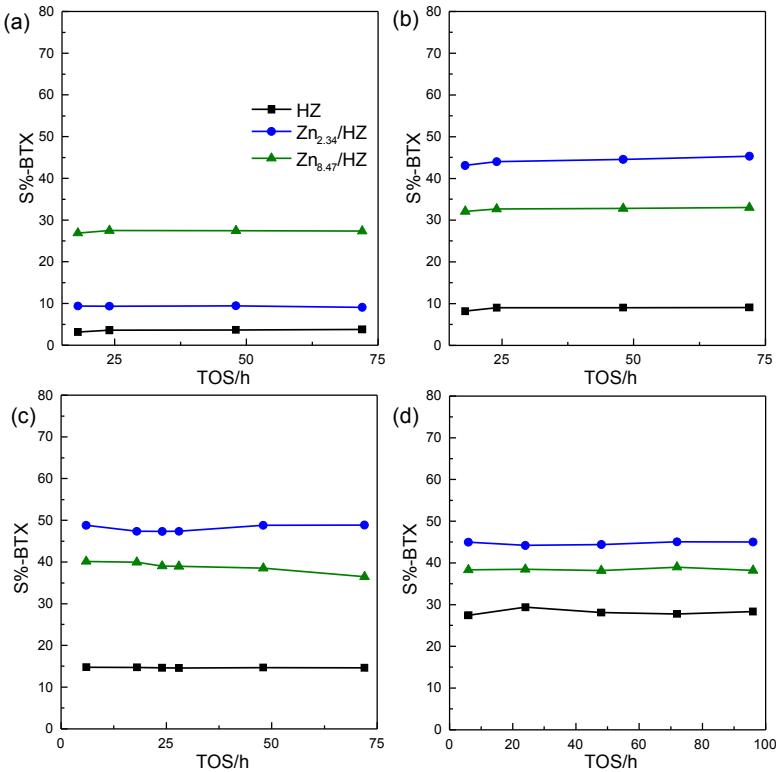
**Figure S1**  $\text{H}_2$ -TPR profiles of ZnO reference and  $\text{Zn}_{8.47}/\text{HZSM-5}$  catalyst pretreated by  $\text{H}_2$  flow at the speed of 3ml/min for 6 hours at different temperatures.

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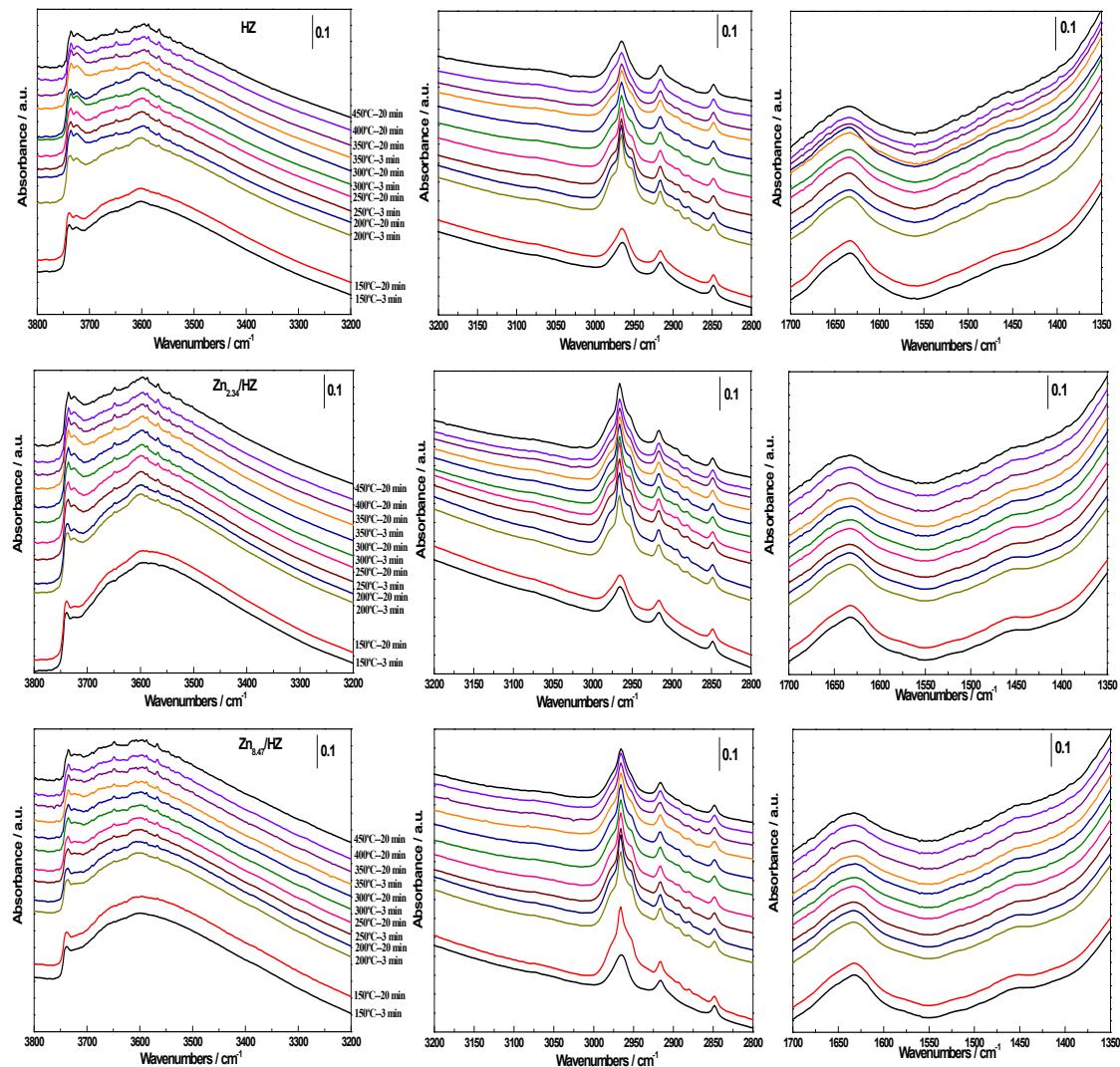


**Figure S2** Reaction stability of isobutane conversion over HZSM-5 and Zn/HZSM-5 catalysts. (a) 400°C, (b) 450°C, (c) 500°C, (d) 560°C. Reaction conditions: P=0.1 MPa, WHSV=0.75 h<sup>-1</sup>.



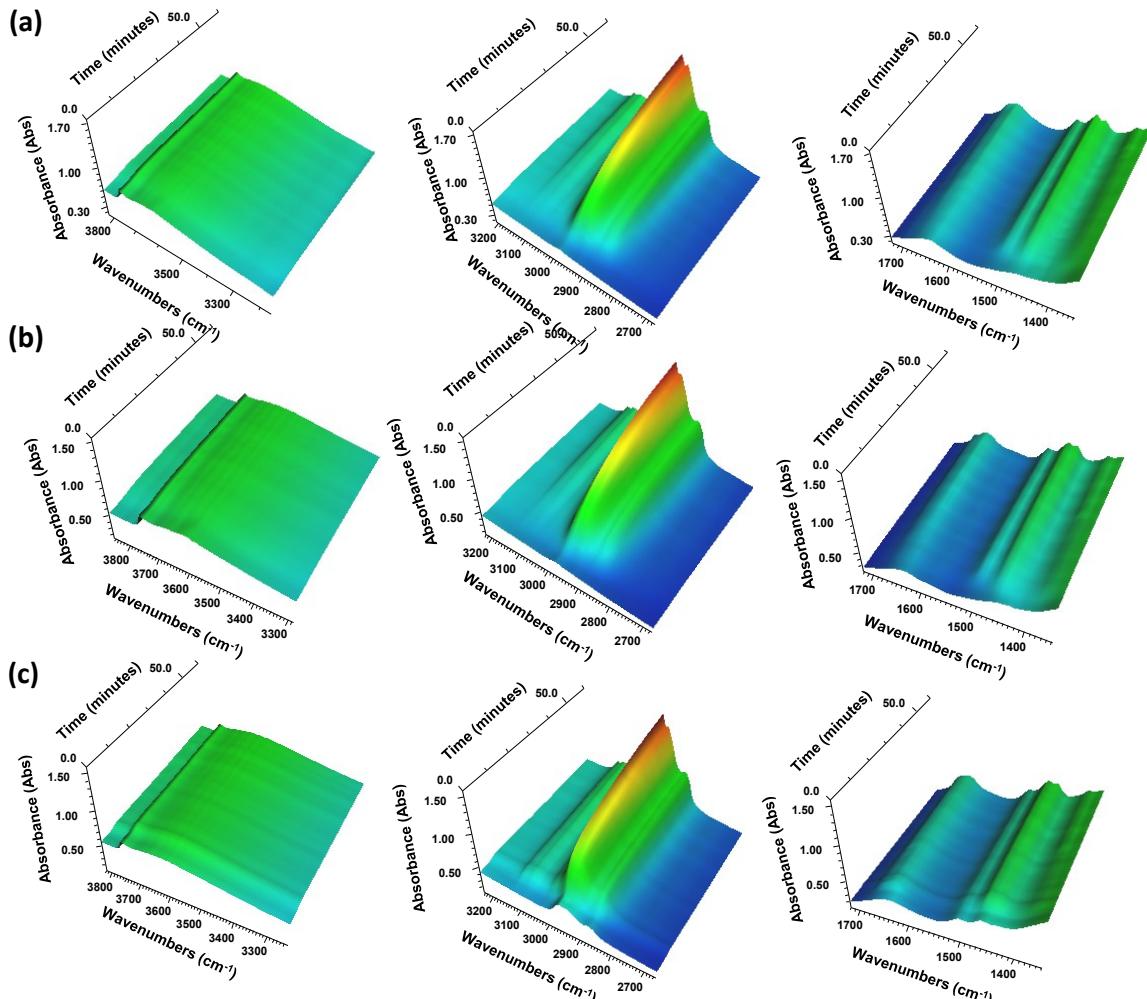
**Figure S3** Reaction stability of BTX selectivity over HZSM-5 and Zn/HZSM-5 catalysts. (a) 400°C (b) 450°C (c) 500°C (d) 560°C. Reaction conditions: P=0.1 MPa, WHSV=0.75 h<sup>-1</sup>.

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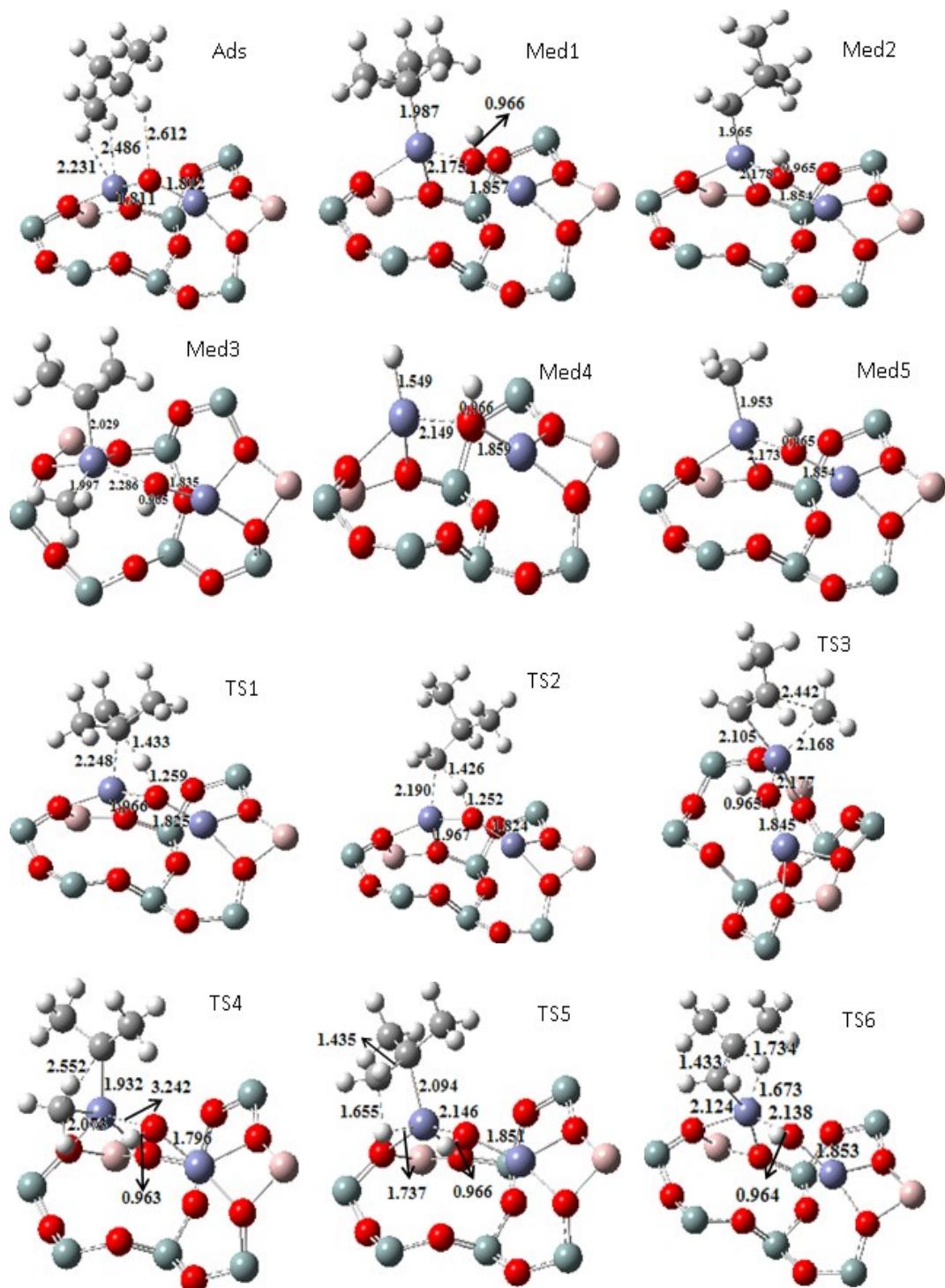
**Figure S4** DB-FTIR profiles of isobutane aromatization on nano-sized HZSM-5,  $\text{Zn}_{2.34}/\text{HZSM-5}$  and  $\text{Zn}_{8.47}/\text{HZSM-5}$  catalysts at different temperatures 150-450°C and 101.33 kPa obtained using a DB-FTIR spectrometer in a flowing mixture of isobutane and nitrogen gas (2 % isobutane - 98 % nitrogen), GHSV=1080  $\text{h}^{-1}$ .

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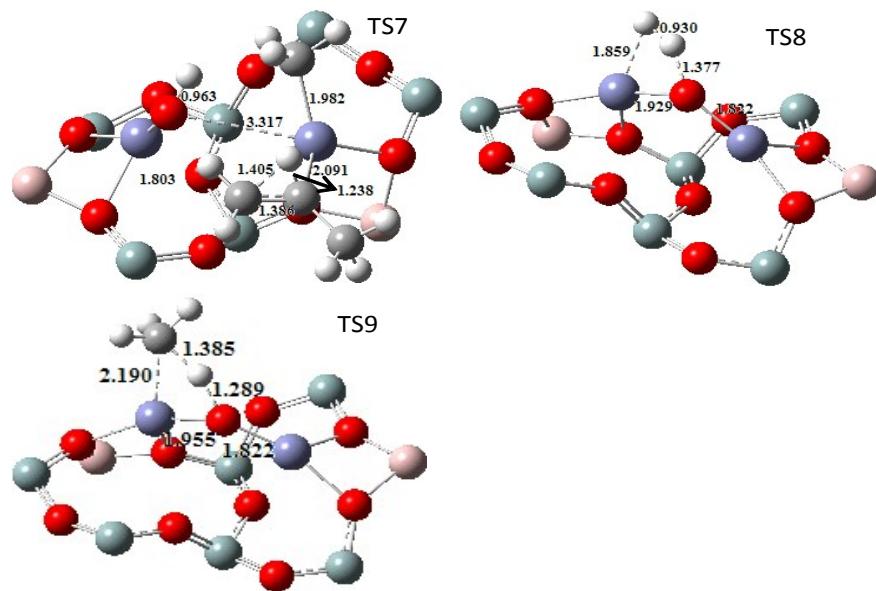
**Figure S5** Three-dimensional DB-FTIR profiles of propene aromatization on (a) nano-sized HZSM-5, (b)  $\text{Zn}_{2.34}/\text{HZSM-5}$  and (c)  $\text{Zn}_{8.47}/\text{HZSM-5}$  catalysts at 250°C and 101.33 kPa obtained using a DB-FTIR spectrometer in a flowing mixture of propene and nitrogen gas (6 % propene - 94 % nitrogen), GHSV=1080  $\text{h}^{-1}$ .

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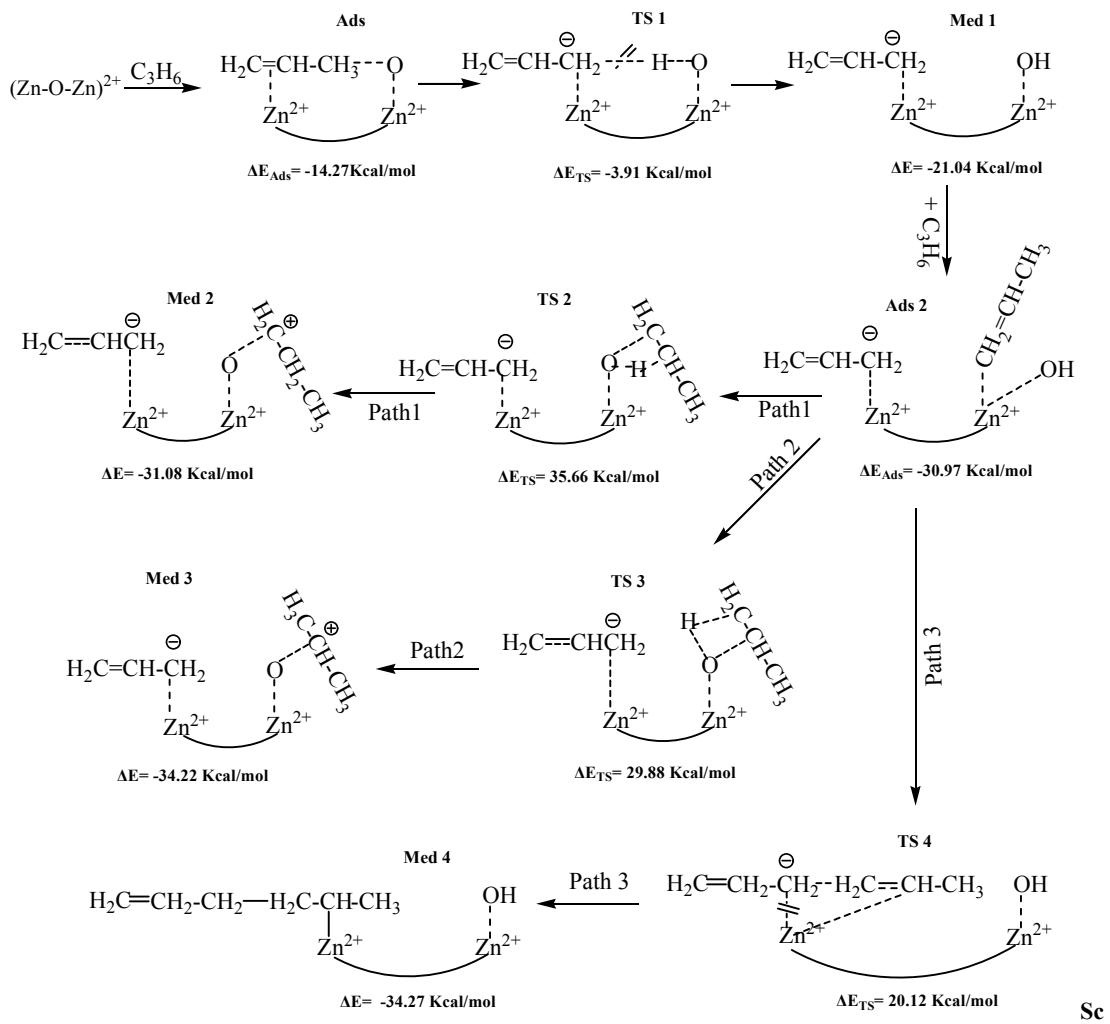
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**Figure S6** Geometric structures of reaction intermediates and transition states in primary activation of isobutane  
(the unit for bond length is Å)

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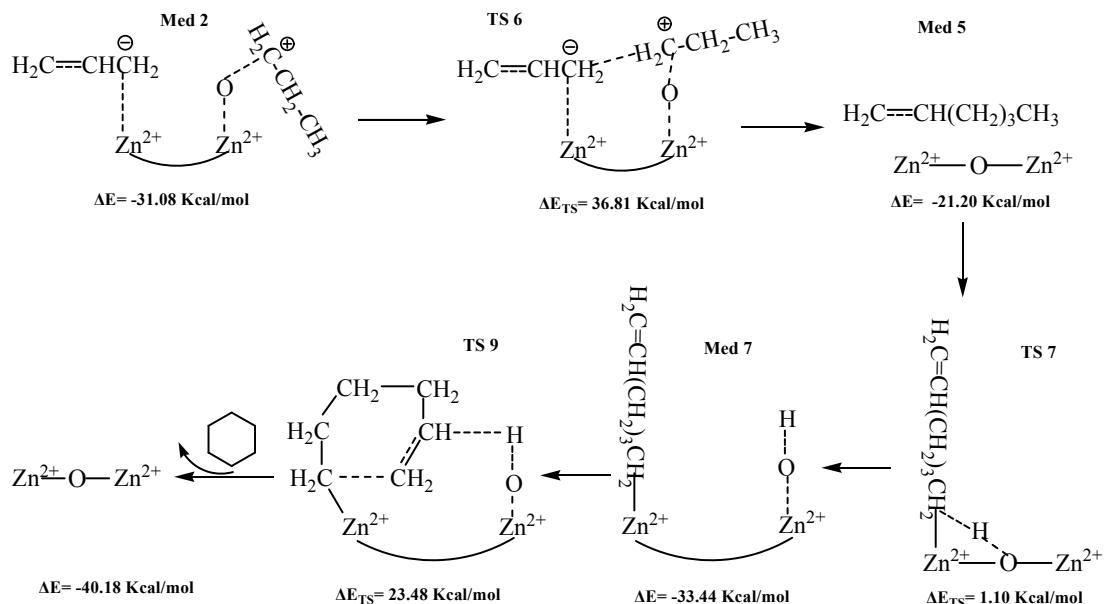


**heme S1** Propylene oligomerization over  $(\text{Zn}-\text{O}-\text{Zn})^{2+}$  active center

Path 1 and 2: propylene oligomerization over  $[\text{ZnOH}]^+$  according to carbocation mechanism; Path 3: propylene oligomerization over  $[\text{Zn}-(\text{C}_3\text{H}_5)]^+$  according to carbanion mechanism

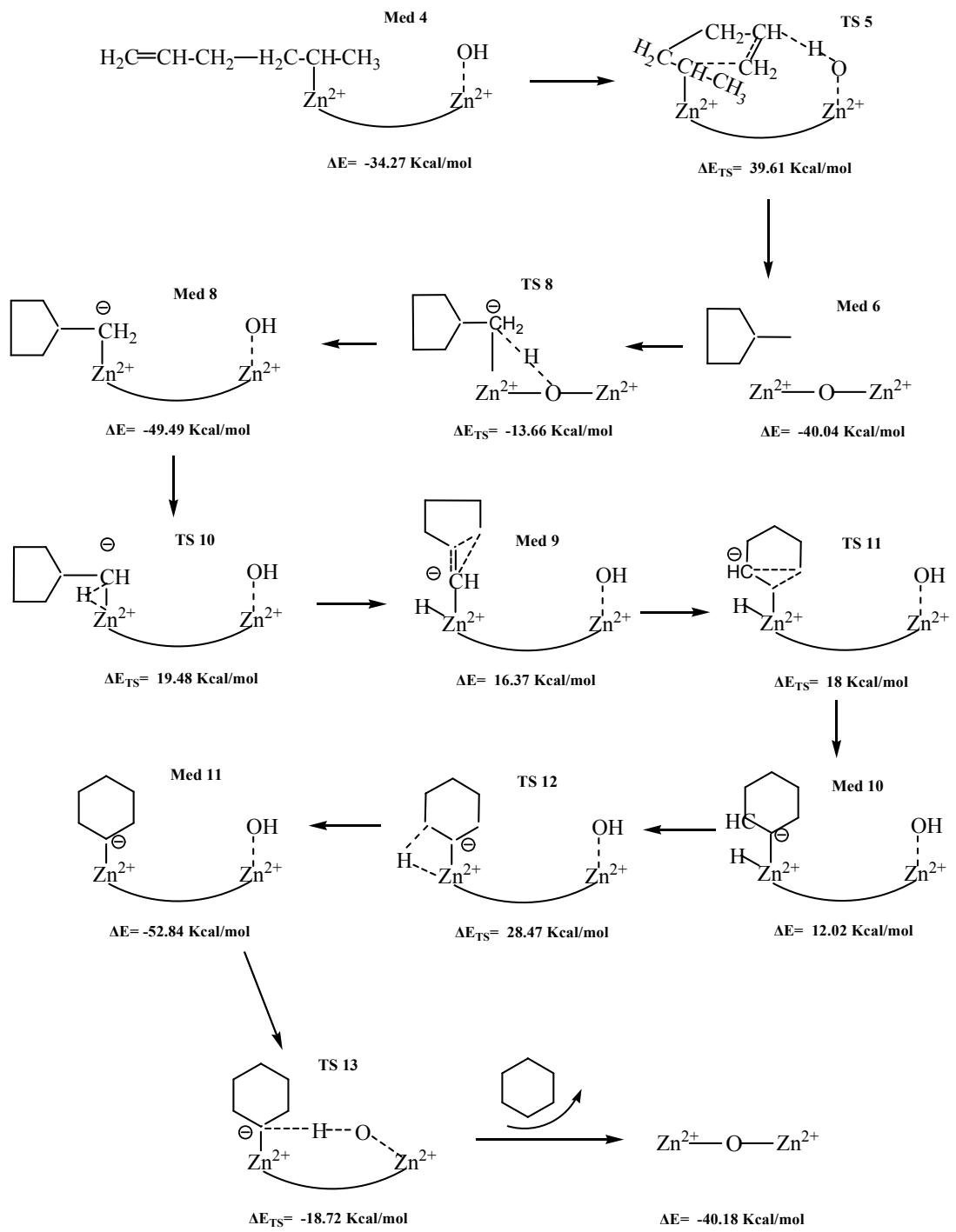
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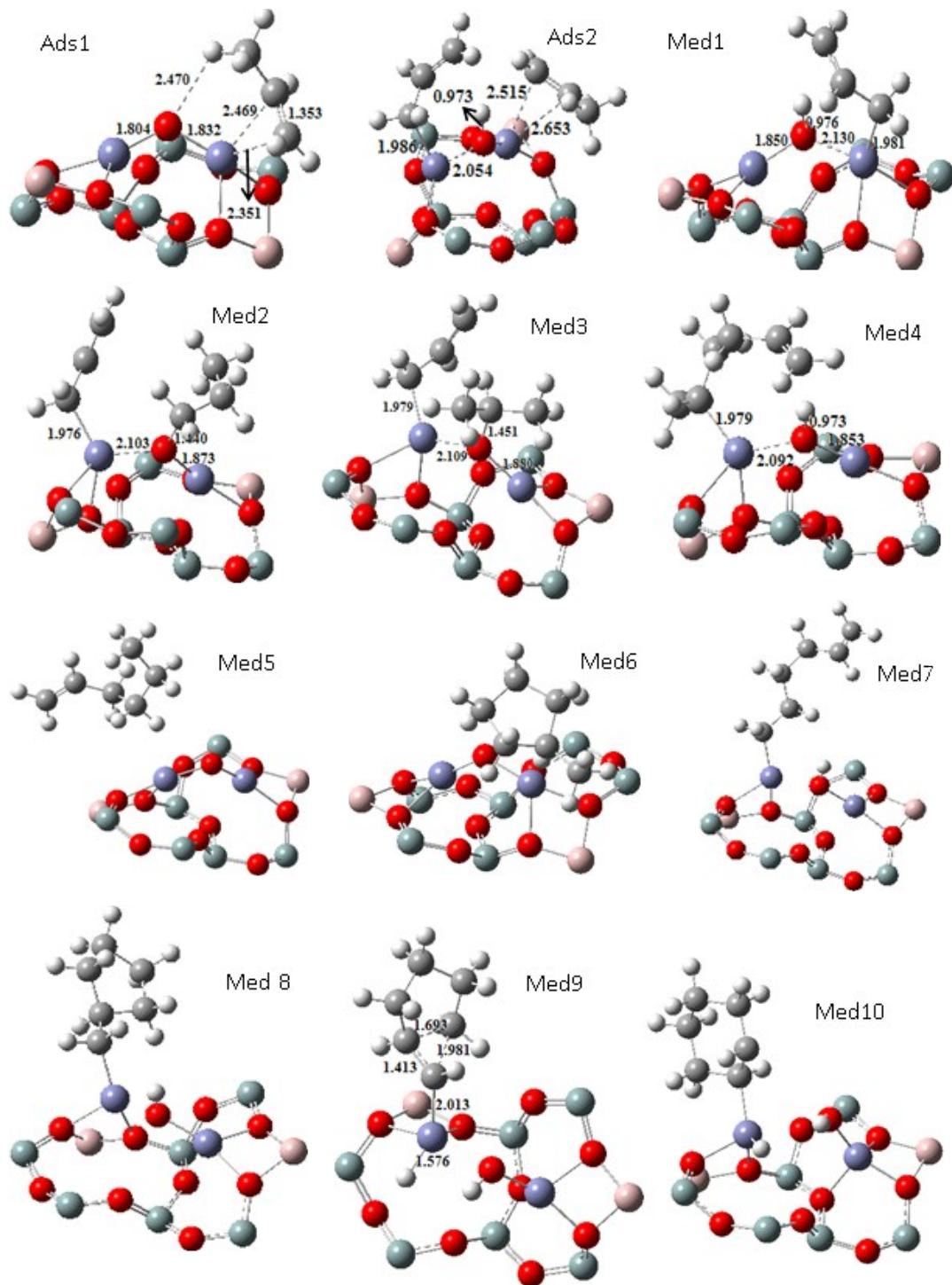
**Scheme S2** The cyclization of propylene dimer (formed by Path1) over  $(\text{Zn}-\text{O}-\text{Zn})^{2+}$  active center with the participation of adjacent  $[\text{ZnOH}]^+$

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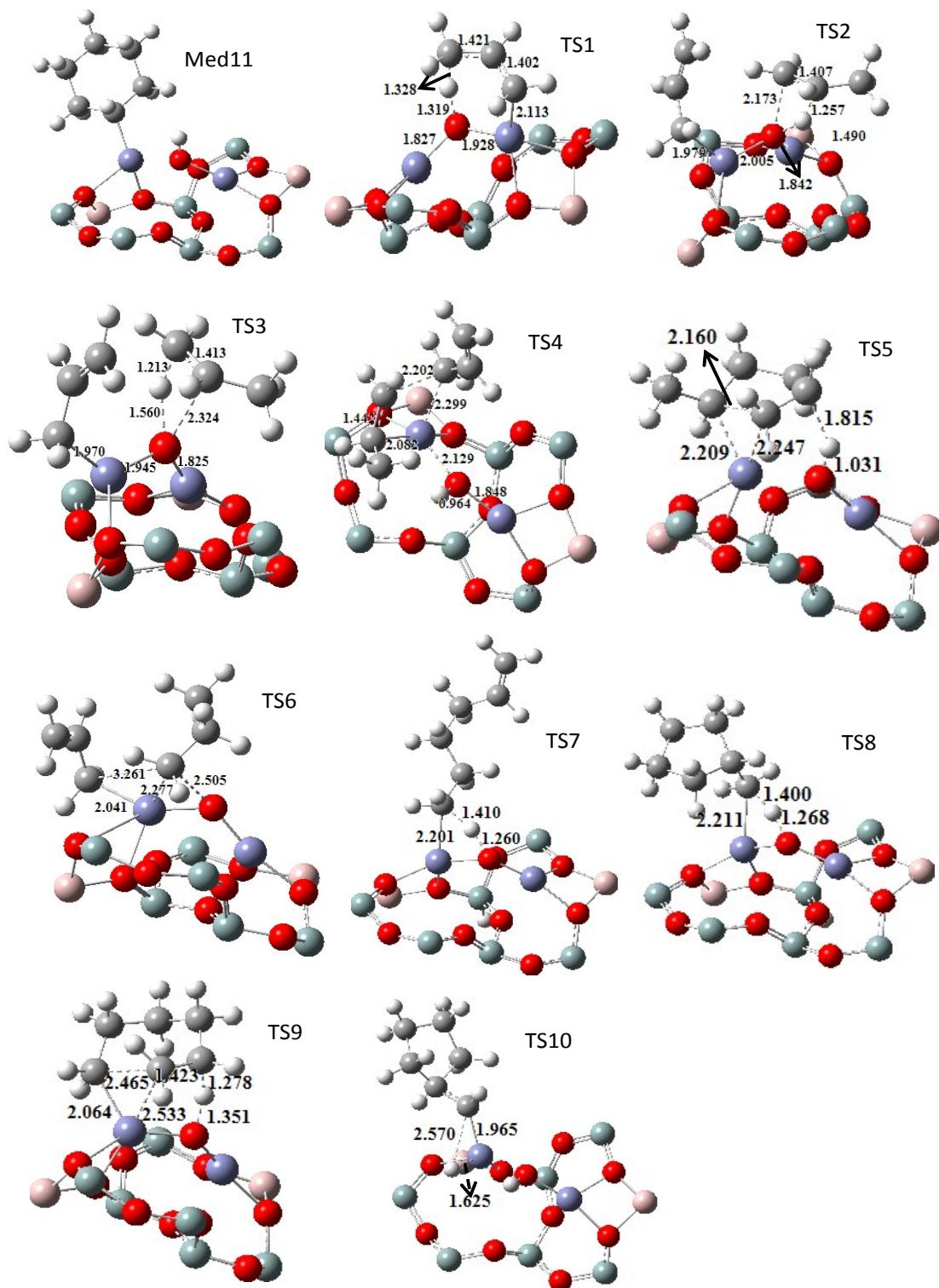


**Scheme S3** The cyclization of propylene dimer (formed by Path 3) over  $(\text{Zn}-\text{O}-\text{Zn})^{2+}$  active center with the participation of adjacent  $[\text{ZnOH}]^+$

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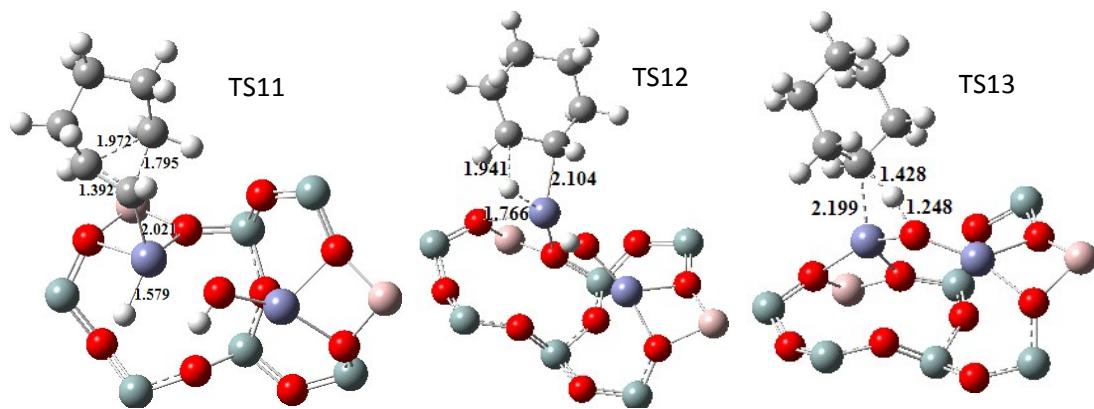


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**Figure S7** Geometric structures of reaction intermediates and transition states of propylene oligomerization and cyclization (the unit for bond length is Å)