## **Supporting Information**

Nitrogen-Doped Carbon Nanotube Sponge with embedded Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C nanoparticles as Binder-Free Cathodes for High Capacity Lithium–Sulfur Batteries

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Figure S1. XRD patterns of Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C@N-CNT/S-2



Figure S2. SEM image of the carbonized melamine sponge (CMS).



Figure S3. (a) TEM image of Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C@N-CNT, the inset in (a) is the HRTEM of N-

CNT, (b) EDS elemental mapping of Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C@N-CNT.



Figure S4. EDS elemental mapping of Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C@N-CNT/S.



Figure S5. EDS elemental mapping of Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C@N-CNT/S after (a) discharge down to 1.7 V,

(b) charge to 2.8 V



Figure S6. (a) Charge/discharge curves of Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C@N-CNT/S under different current rate, (b) cyclic performance of Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C@N-CNT/S composite electrode when charged/discharged at 0.1 C.



Figure S7. Visual comparison of the  $Li_2S_6$  solution for polysulfide entrapment of (1)  $Li_2S_6$  solution, (2)  $Li_2S_6$  solution with CMS, (3)  $Li_2S_6$  solution with Fe/Fe<sub>3</sub>C@N-CNT.