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## **Supporting information**

## Elucidating the Energy Storage Mechanism of ZnMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> as Promising Anode for Li-Ion Batteries

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Fig. S1 Overview of the HT-SXRD and in situ SXRD instruments in the P02.1, Petra-III DESY, Hamburg.



Fig. S2 The SXRD pattern of the scan at 800 °C in HT-SXRD and the Rietveld refinement result.



Fig. S3 FESEM image of the cp-ZMO-500 at low magnification.



**Fig. S4** *In situ* SXRD patterns of the  $ZnMn_2O_4$  half-cell during the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle at a current density of 70 mA g<sup>-1</sup>, referring to the lithiation process (blue) and delithiation process (red);



Fig. S5 In situ SXRD pattern of scan 28 and the Rietveld refinement result.



Fig. S6 EIS Nyquist plots (points) and the fitting curves (solid line) of the 1st cycle of the ZnMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> half-cell.



Fig. S7 The linear relationship between the Z' and the  $\omega$ -0.5 according to the EIS plots scanned at different (de)lithiation states.



Fig. S8 The selected potential profiles of the long-term cycling at 0.5 A  $g^{-1}$  of the ZnMn<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub> anode.



**Fig. S9** (a-d) The CV curves of the  $ZnMn_2O_4$  half-cell (after 55 cycles) scanned at varied rates  $0.1 \sim 1 \text{ mV s}^{-1}$  with fitted capacitive contribution (shadow area) and (e) linear fitting of the lg(*i*) vs. lg(v) plots.