

## Supporting Information

### **Efficient Polysulfides Barrier of Graphene Aerogel-Carbon Nanofibers-Ni Network for High-Energy-Density Lithium-Sulfur Batteries with Ultrahigh Sulfur Content**

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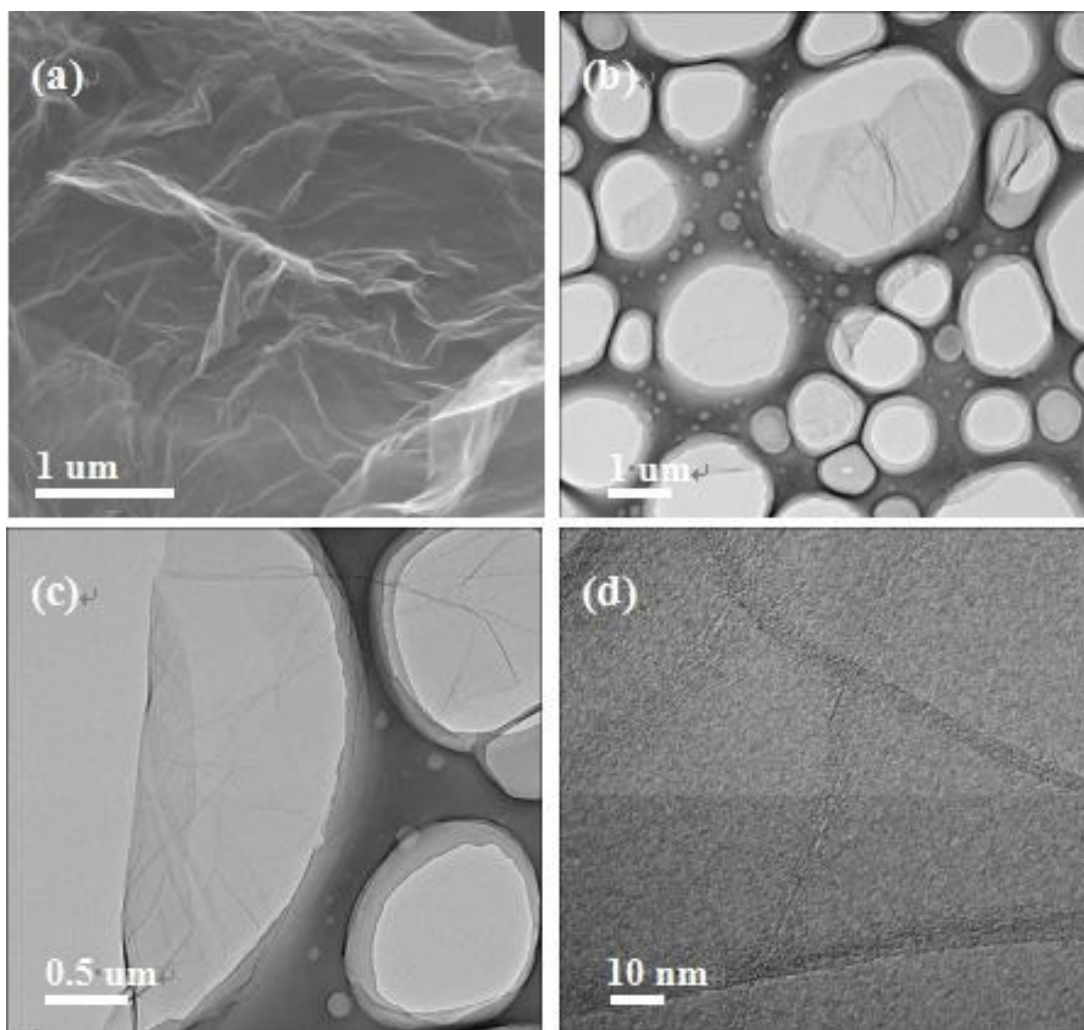
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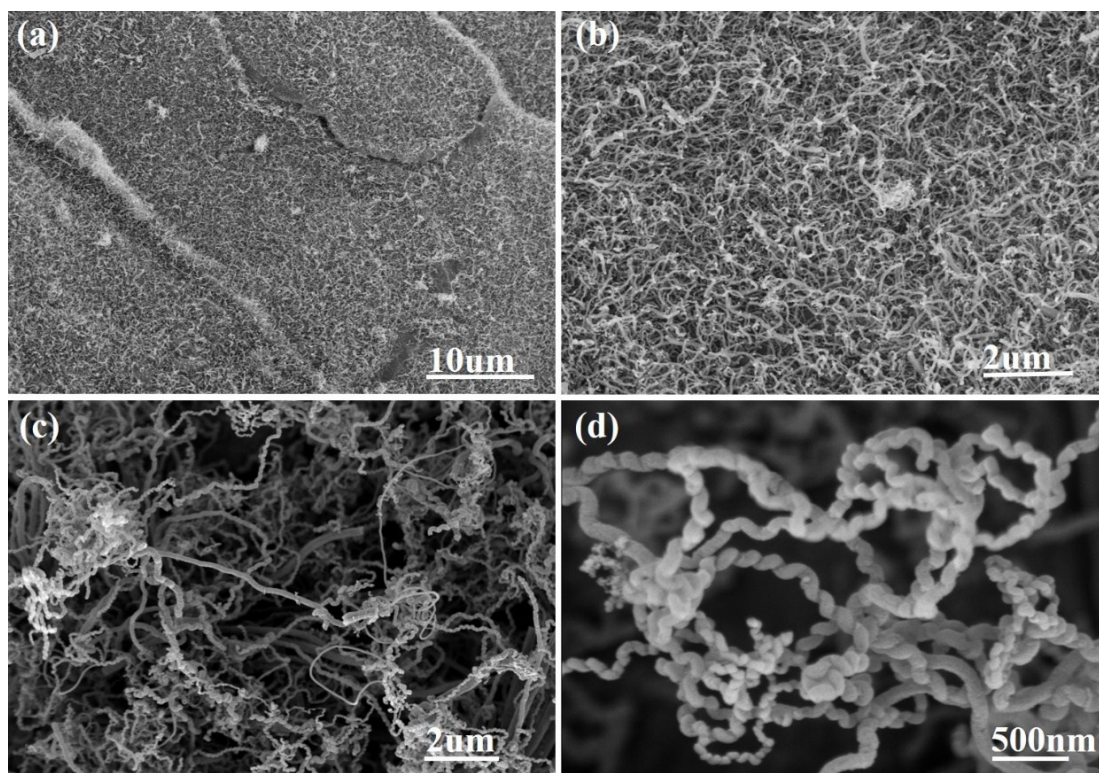
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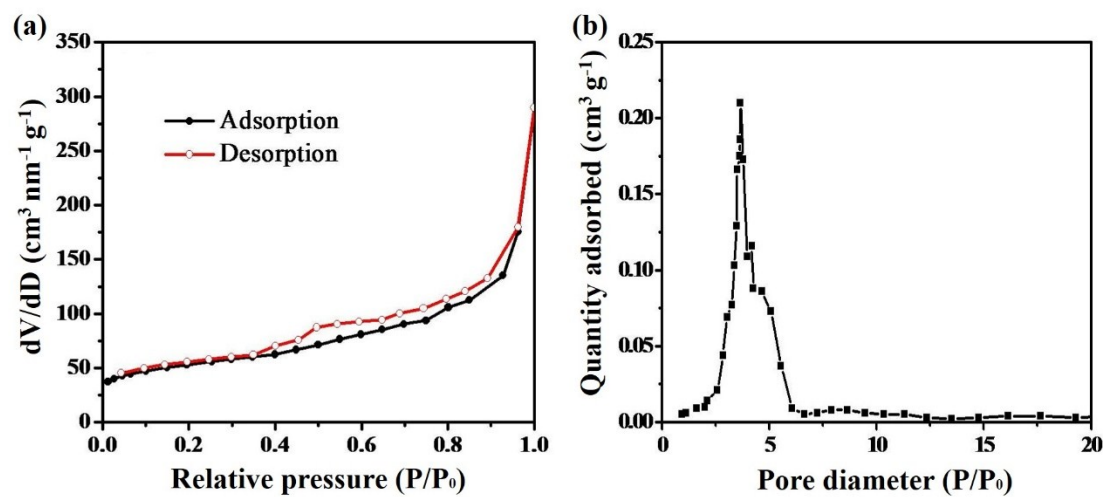
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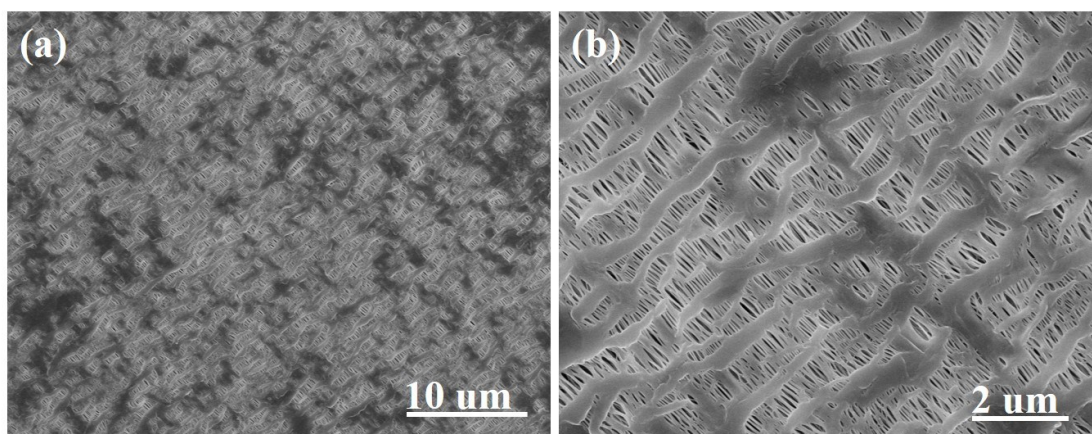
**Figure S1.** (a) SEM, (b, c) TEM and d) HRTEM images of exfoliated graphene oxide



**Figure S2.** SEM images of GA-CNF-Ni hybrids synthesized with growth time of (a, b) 30 min and (c, d) 2 h.



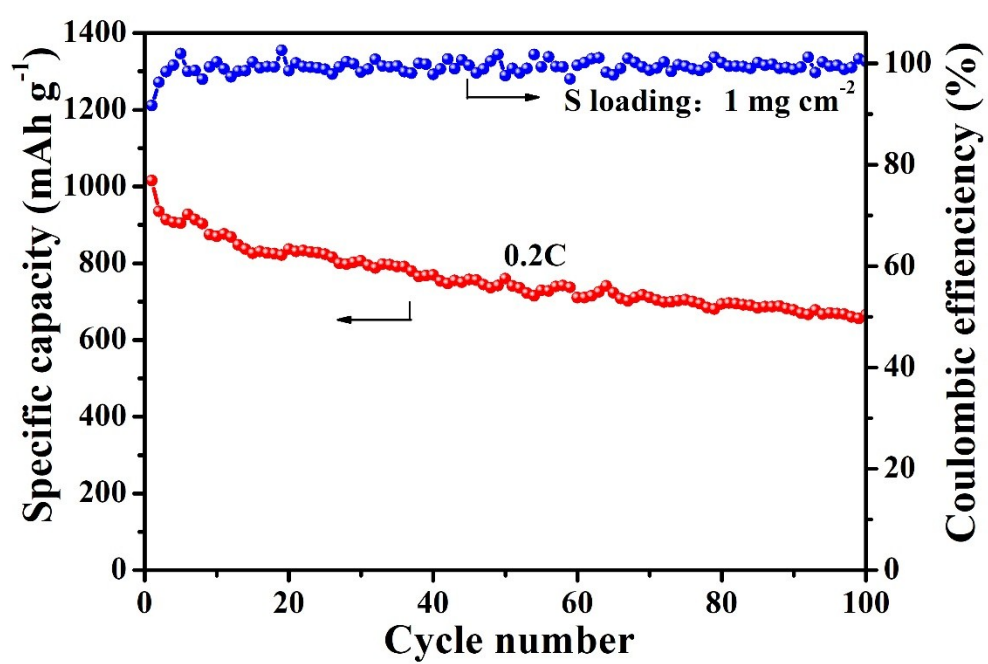
**Figure S3.** (a)  $\text{N}_2$  adsorption-desorption isotherms of GA and (b) corresponding pore size distribution.



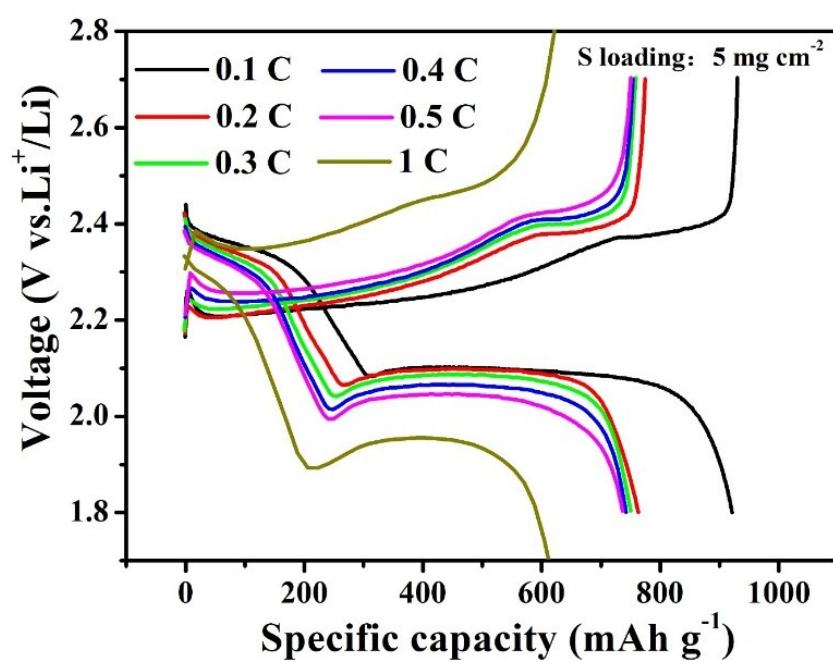
**Figure S4.** SEM images of pristine separator.

**Table S1.** Comparisons of electrical properties between GA-CNFs-Ni and GA/CNT coating layers

| Coating layer | Resistivity<br>( $\Omega \cdot cm$ ) | Conductivity<br>(S cm <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| GA-CNFs-Ni    | $6.8 \times 10^{-3}$                 | 147                                   |
| GA/CNT        | $1.2 \times 10^{-2}$                 | 83                                    |

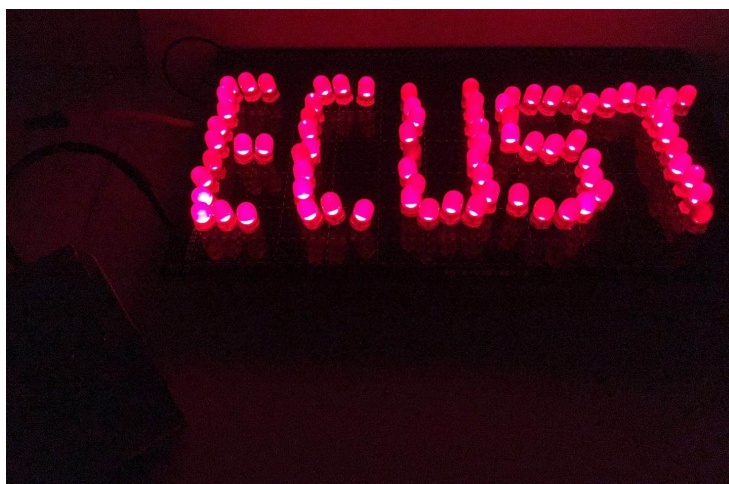


**Figure S5.** The cycle performance of GA-CNFs-Ni/S cathode with pristine separator at 0.2 C



**Figure S6.** Charge-discharge voltage profiles of the cells fabricated with GA-CNFs modified separator at 0.2 C



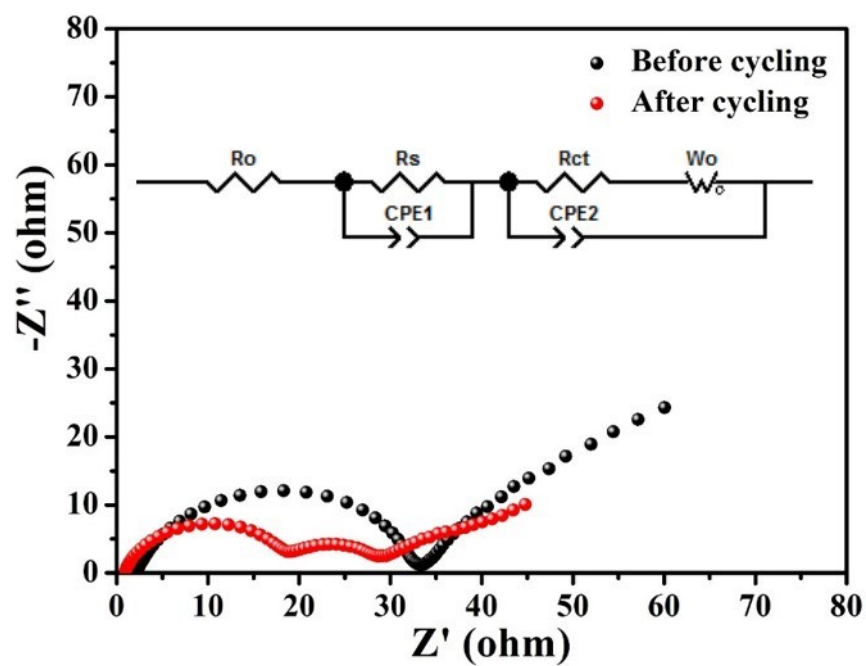


**Figure S7.** Optical image of LED lamps with the pattern of “ECUST” lighted by the cell based on GA-CNFs-Ni coated separator and ultra-high loading sulfur cathode.

**Table S2.** Comparison of electrochemical properties functional separators in Li-S cells

| Coating or interlayer           | Sulfur loading | Sulfur content | Cathode               | Discharge Capacity                                     | Areal capacity (mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> ) | E/S ratio | Ref   |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| MoO <sub>3</sub> @CNT           | 1.0            | 60%            | Super P/S             | ~755 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 200 <sup>th</sup> , 0.3 C   | <2.0                                   | N/A       | [S1]  |
| SPEEK                           | 6.0            | 45%            | CNT/S                 | 650 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 500 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C    | ~3.9                                   | N/A       | [S2]  |
| SSNS/CNT                        | 1.0            | 65%            | KB/S                  | 680 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 100 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C    | <2.0                                   | N/A       | [S3]  |
| Ultrathin hollow carbon sphere  | 3.0            | 57%            | CB/S                  | 730 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 100 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C    | ~2.2                                   | ~13       | [S4]  |
| EUC-CNF                         | 1.5            | 70%            | Super P/S             | ~1038 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 50 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C   | <2.0                                   | N/A       | [S5]  |
| GO@MoS <sub>2</sub>             | 3.64           | 70%            | CB/S                  | ~600 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 95 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C    | ~2.2                                   | ~14       | [S6]  |
| Fe-N-carbon nanofiber           | 1.0            | 77%            | S/KB                  | ~601.9 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 500 <sup>th</sup> , 0.5 C | <2.0                                   | N/A       | [S7]  |
| MoO <sub>3</sub>                | 0.9-1.0        | 49%            | CNT/S                 | ~782 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 100 <sup>th</sup> , 0.5 C   | <2.0                                   | 40        | [S8]  |
| Co <sub>9</sub> S <sub>8</sub>  | 2.0-5.6        | 70%            | Super P/S             | ~985 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 200 <sup>th</sup> , 0.1 C   | 5.5                                    | 10        | [S9]  |
| Nano TiO <sub>2</sub>           | 2.0            | 63%            | AB/S                  | ~883 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 180 <sup>th</sup> , 0.1 C   | <2.0                                   | N/A       | [S10] |
| CNF@VS <sub>2</sub> /CNT@GN     | 5.6            | 60%            | Super P/S             | ~750 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 43 <sup>th</sup> , 0.3 C    | 4.1                                    | N/A       | [S11] |
| OCNT                            | 2.5            | 65%            | CB/S                  | ~820 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 60 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C    | ~2.0                                   | N/A       | [S12] |
| TiO <sub>2</sub> /C             | 1.1            | 54%            | AB/S                  | ~1000 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 60 <sup>th</sup> , 0.1 C   | <2.0                                   | 36        | [S13] |
| Gr-CNT-Ni                       | 7.68           | 64%            | polysulfide catholyte | ~696 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 100 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C   | ~5.3                                   | 10        | [S14] |
| CNT@ZIF                         | 1.2            | 56%            | AB/S                  | ~1100 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 60 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C   | <2.0                                   | 36        | [S15] |
| CNF@ZrO <sub>2</sub>            | 2.7            | 70%            | CB/S                  | ~800 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 60 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C    | ~2.1                                   | 40        | [S16] |
| g-C <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> | 4.0            | 45%            | GO/S                  | ~600 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 60 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C    | ~2.4                                   | 20        | [S17] |
| aCNT                            | 6.0            | 67%            | aCNT/S                | 617 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 60, 0.1 C                    | 3.7                                    | N/A       | [S18] |
| CoP                             | 3.24           | 56%            | rGO/S                 | ~800 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 100 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C   | ~2.7                                   | N/A       | [S19] |
| MnO <sub>2</sub>                | 1.5-2.5        | 66%            | KB/S                  | ~603 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> , 500 <sup>th</sup> , 0.5 C   | <2.0                                   | 7.0-8.8   | [S20] |

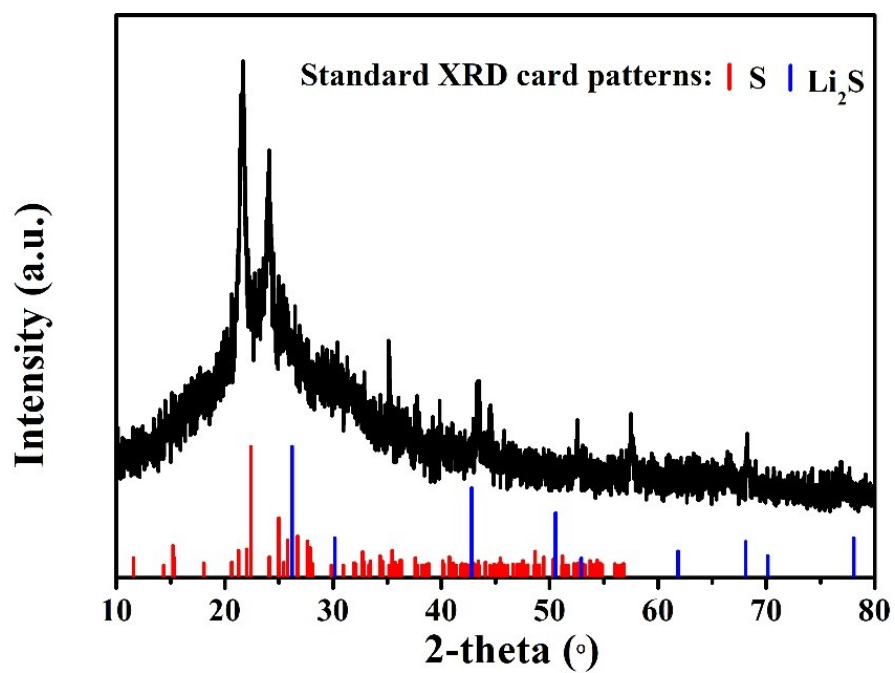
|                                |         |       |           |                                                       |      |    |              |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|------|----|--------------|
| rGO@SL                         | 3.8     | 75%   | CB/S      | 700 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>50 <sup>th</sup> , 0.05 C  | 2.7  | 8  | [21]         |
| MoP/rGO                        | 3.6-3.9 | 85.6% | CNTs-AB/S | 760 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>300 <sup>th</sup> , 0.5 C  | 3.2  | 15 | [22]         |
| TiN                            | 1.3     | 70%   | Super P/S | 744 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>200 <sup>th</sup> , 0.5 C  | <2.0 | 46 | [23]         |
| Sb <sub>2</sub> S <sub>3</sub> | 1.0     | 65%   | KB/S      | 680 mAh g <sup>-1</sup><br>100 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C  | <2.0 | 50 | [24]         |
| GA-CNF-Ni                      | 5.0     | 90%   | CB/S      | 890 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> ,<br>90 <sup>th</sup> , 0.2 C | 4.5  | 12 | This<br>work |
|                                | 10.0    |       |           | 550 mAh g <sup>-1</sup> ,<br>60 <sup>th</sup> , 0.1 C | 5.5  | 6  |              |
|                                |         |       |           |                                                       |      |    |              |



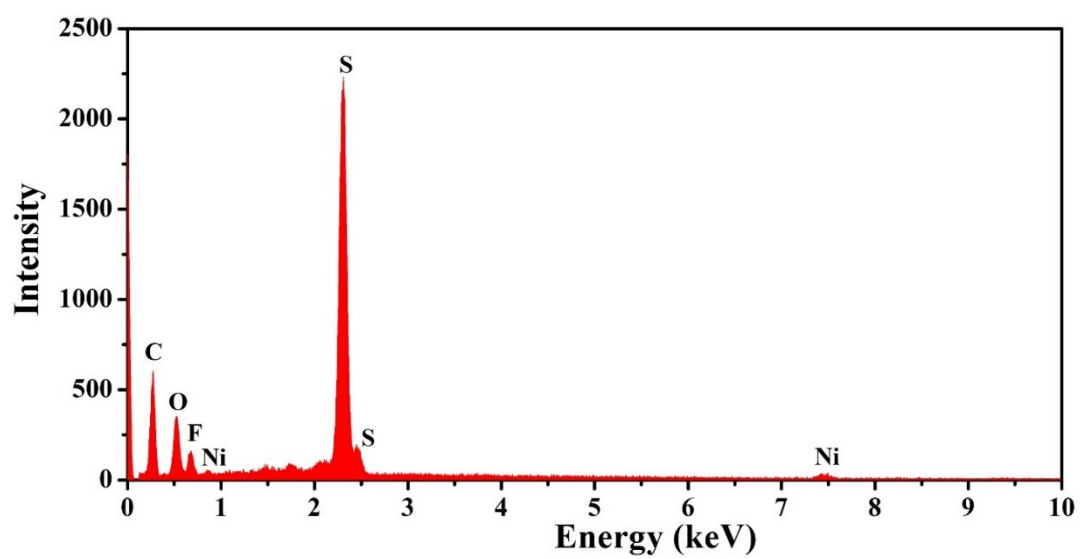
**Figure S8.** Nyquist plots and corresponding equivalent circuit (insert) of the cells based on “double high” sulfur cathode and GA-CNFs-Ni modified separator before and after cycling.

**Table. S3.** The parameters of Nyquist plot of the cells based on “double high” sulfur cathode and GA-CNFs-Ni modified separator before and after cycling

| <b>Samples</b> | <b><math>R_o</math> (<math>\Omega</math>)</b> | <b><math>R_s</math> (<math>\Omega</math>)</b> | <b><math>R_{ct}</math> (<math>\Omega</math>)</b> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Before cycling | 2.2                                           | 30.4                                          | -                                                |
| After cycling  | 0.9                                           | 18.4                                          | 8.2                                              |



**Figure S9.** XRD patterns of GA-CNFs-Ni coated separator after cycling and standard XRD patterns sulfur and Li<sub>2</sub>S powder.



**Figure S10.** EDX spectra of GA-CNFs-Ni coated separator after 90 cycles at 0.2 C

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