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## **Supporting information**

Side-chain alkylation of toluene with methanol over cesium ion-

exchanged zeolites LSX and X catalysts

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Table S1 The physicochemical characteristics and catalytic activities of different catalysts.

Table S2 GC-MS analysis of the soluble coke on used CsX catalyst

## Synthesis of LSX

LSX zeolite was synthesized with the following steps. First, 18.33 g sodium hydroxide (96 wt.%) and 21.78 g potassium hydroxide (85 wt.%) were added into 54.98 g deionized water, stirred until dissolved; Second, a sodium aluminate solution was prepared by adding 24.87 g sodium aluminate (41 wt.% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, 30 wt.% Na<sub>2</sub>O) into 30 g deionized water under agitation for 1 h. Then a sodium aluminate alkaline solution was obtained by mixing the alkaline solution with sodium aluminate solution thoroughly. Third, 66.09 g sodium silicate (20 wt.% Na<sub>2</sub>O, 20 wt.% SiO<sub>2</sub>) dissolved in 70 g deionized water. The sodium aluminate alkaline mixture solution was dropped into the sodium silicate solution and mixed thoroughly. The system was treated at 343 K for 3 h, then heated up to 363 K rapidly and stood for 2 h under autogenous pressure. Finally, the LSX zeolite was obtained after filtrating, washing, drying, and calcining in the air at 773 K for 4 h.

Samples	$S_{BET}(m^2{\cdot}g^{‐1})^a$	V <sub>micro</sub> (cm <sup>3</sup> ·g <sup>-1</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>	$V_{meso}  (cm^3 \cdot g^{-1})^b$	CsED (%)°	Si/Al <sup>c</sup>
LSX	505	0.18	0.03	-	1.01
CsLSX	231	0.08	0.14	65.4	1.07
NaX	487	0.22	0.15	-	1.27
CsX	387	0.14	0.12	62.8	1.29

Table S1 The physicochemical characteristics of different catalysts.

<sup>a</sup>Calculated using the BET method.

<sup>b</sup>Determined using the *t*-plot method.

<sup>c</sup>Obtained from ICP-AES results.

<sup>c</sup>cesium ion exchange degrees(CsED)was calculated by  $CsED(\%) = \frac{W_{Na,i} - W_{Na,t}}{W_{Na,i}} \times 100$ , where  $W_{Na,i}$  and  $W_{Na,t}$  were the mass percentage of Na in the initial LSX or NaX and treated zeolites,

respectively.

Monocyclic aromatic compound	Polycyclic aromatic compound		
tetramethylbenzene	pyrene	1,2-dipropylbenzenealkanes	
Trimethyl isopropyl benzene	1-hydroxy-1H-indene	3,4-diisopropylbiphenyl	
4-Ethyl-o-xylene	1-Naphthalenyl	Diisopropyl dimethyl biphenyl	
diisopropyl phenol	fluoranthene	-	

Table S2 GC-MS analysis of the soluble coke on used CsX catalyst