

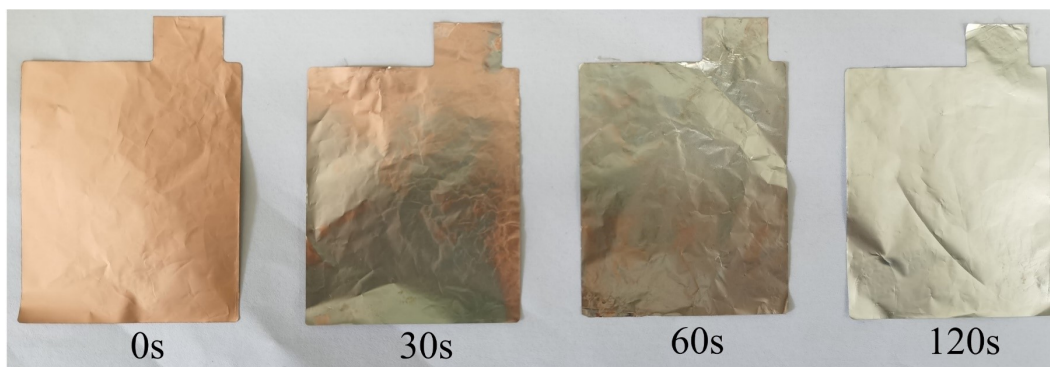
# Chemical lithiation induced $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn}$ lithiophilic layer for Anode-free Lithium Metal Batteries

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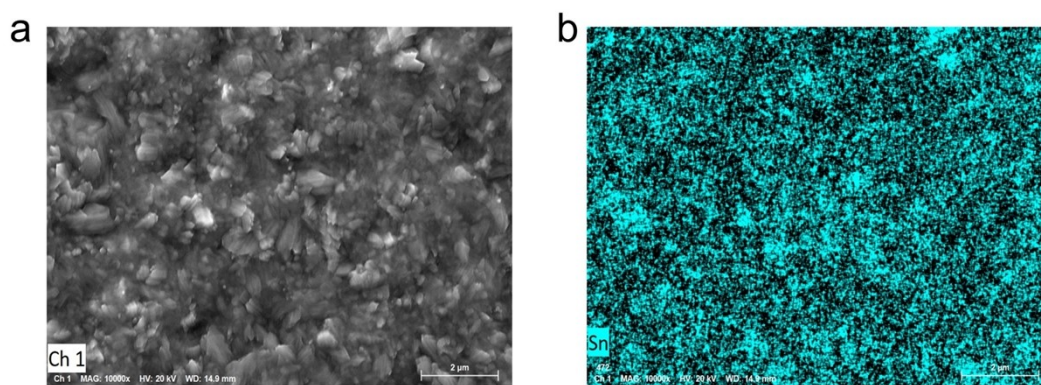
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**Figure S1.** Optical image of Sn@Cu electrode with different processing time.



**Figure S2.** a) Top-view SEM image and b) elemental mapping of of Sn@Cu.

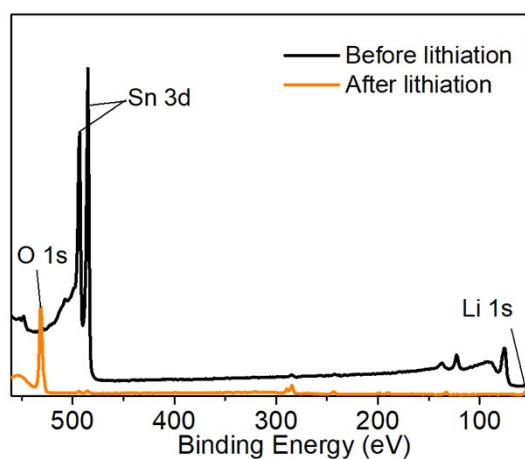


Figure S3. XPS spectra of Sn@Cu foil before and after lithiation.

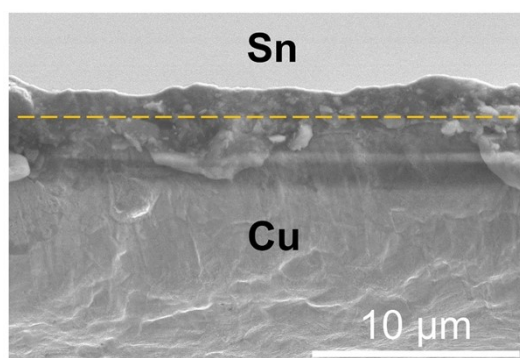
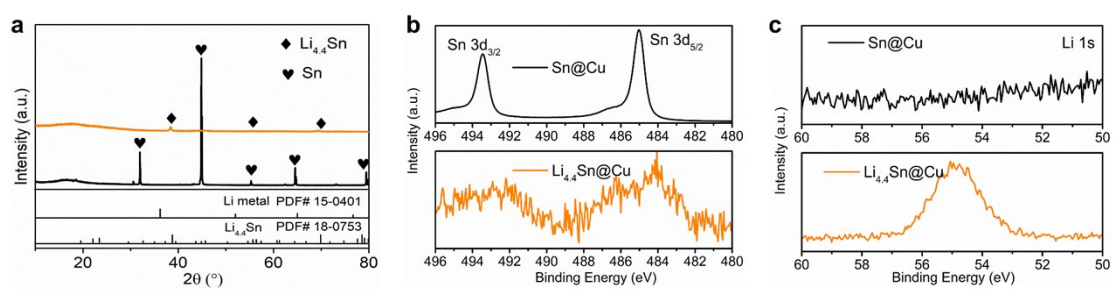
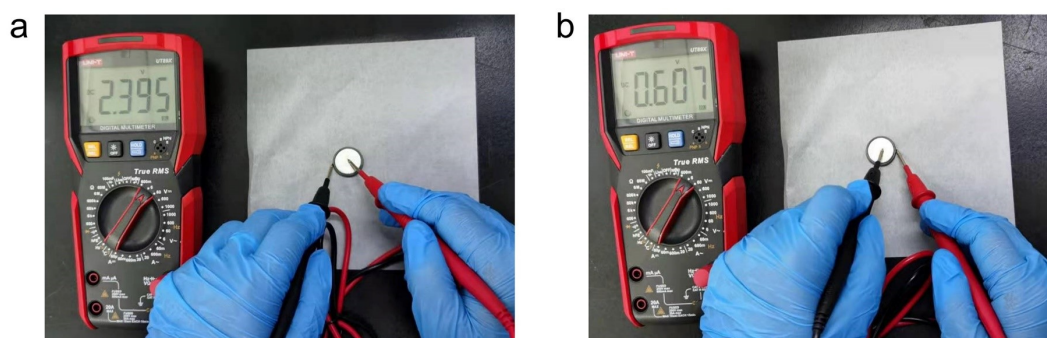


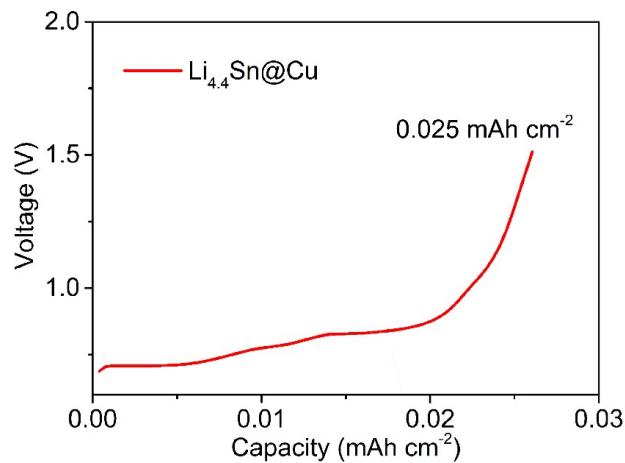
Figure S4. Cross-sectional SEM image of Sn@Cu before lithiation.



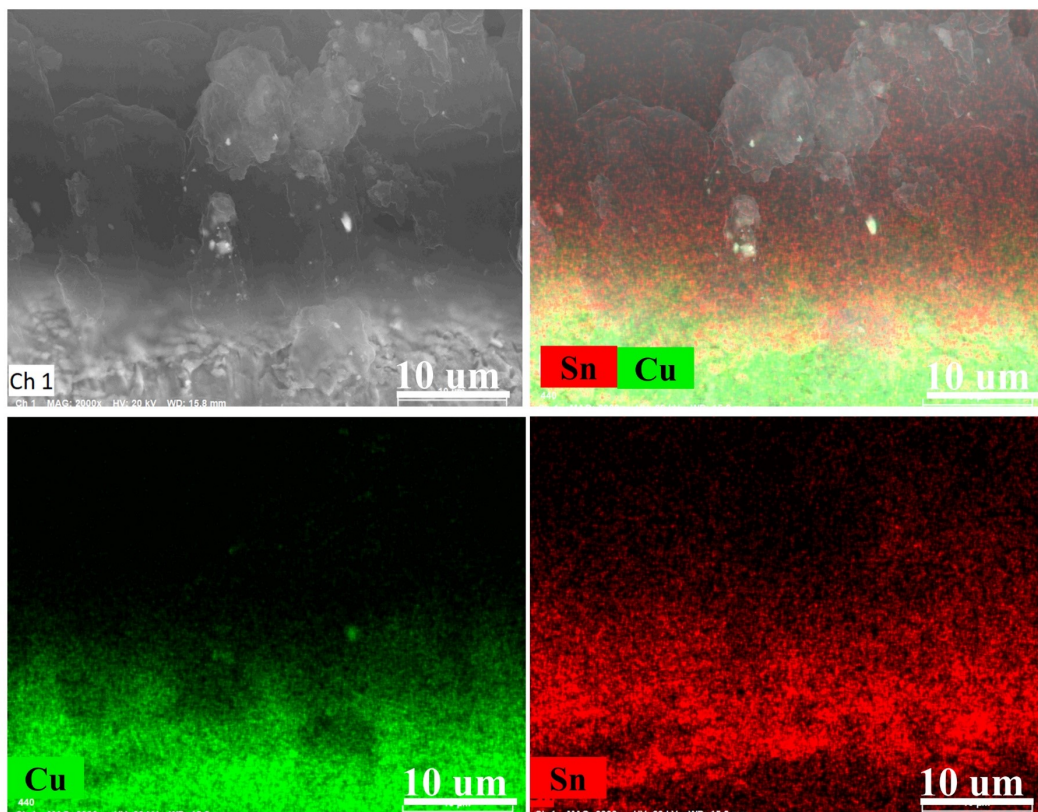
**Figure S5.**a) XRD patterns of  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn@Cu}$  and  $\text{Sn@Cu}$ . b) Sn 3d XPS spectra of  $\text{Sn@Cu}$  (up) and  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn@Cu}$  (down) electrodes. c) Li 1s XPS spectra of  $\text{Sn@Cu}$  (up) and  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn@Cu}$  (down).



**Figure S6.** Measurement of open circuit voltage of a)  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn@Cu}$  / NCM811 cell and b)  $\text{Cu}$  / NCM811 cell.

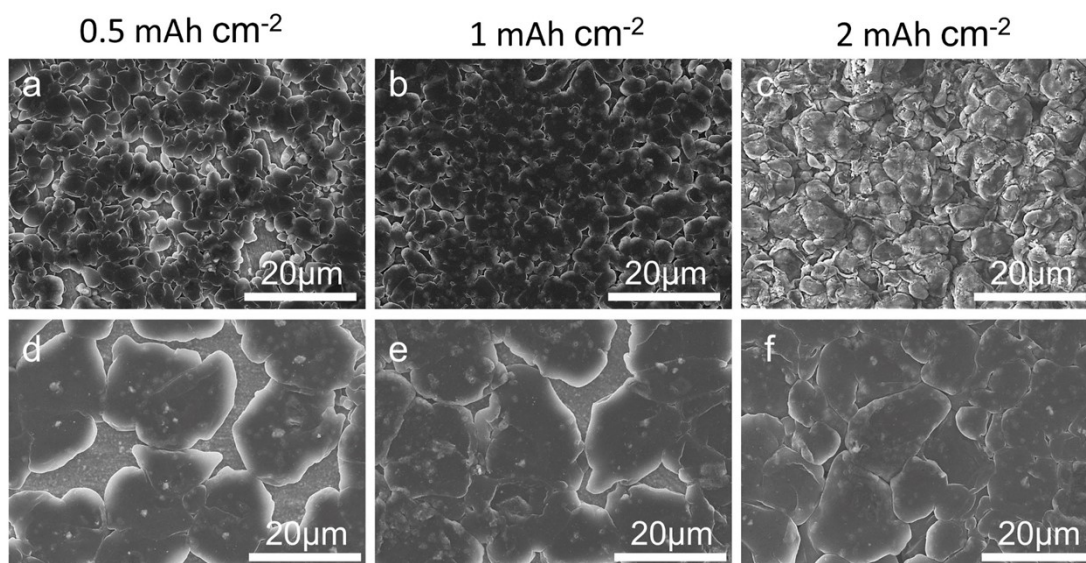


**Figure S7.** Measurement of lithium inventory of  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn@Cu}$  electrode.

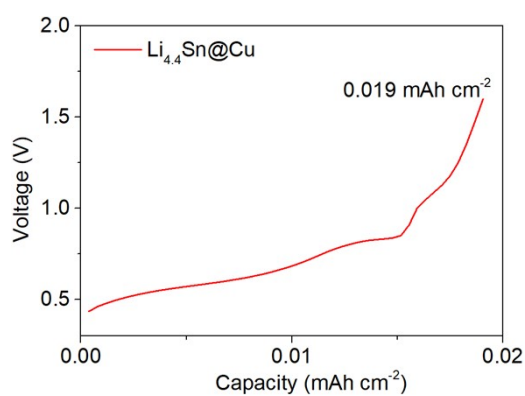


**Figure S8.** a) Cross-sectional SEM image of  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn@Cu}$  electrode after 3  $\text{mAh cm}^{-2}$  Li plating with a current density of 0.5  $\text{mA cm}^{-2}$ , and b-d) the corresponding EDS mapping.

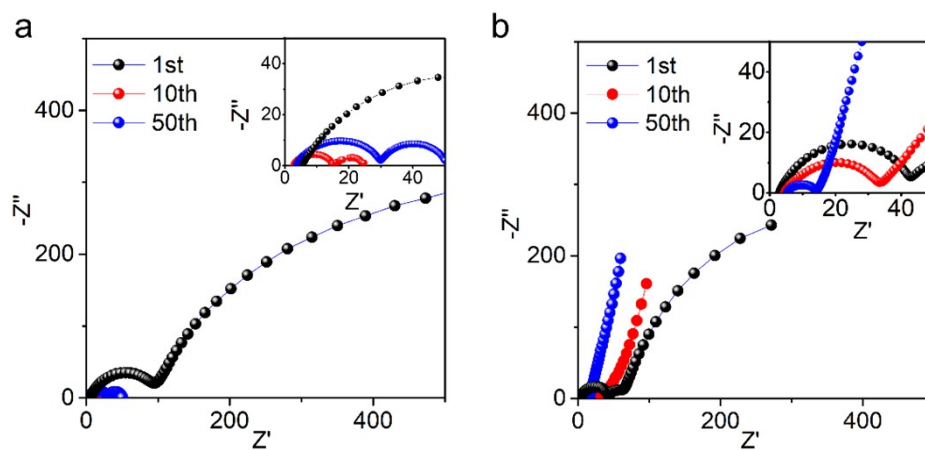




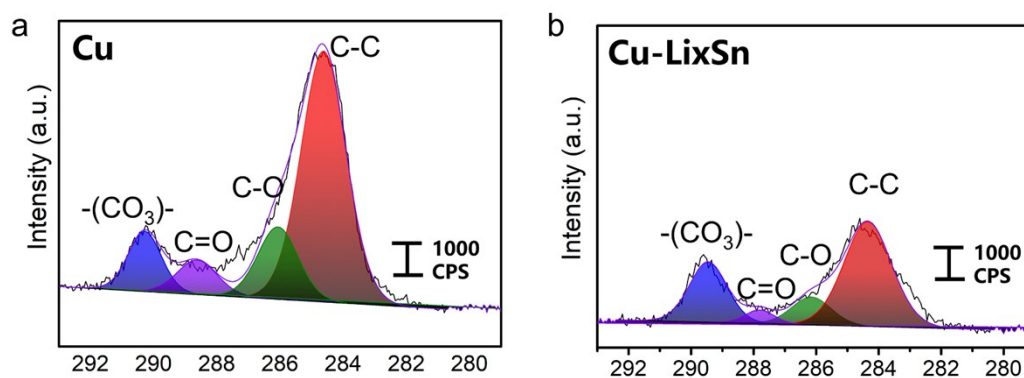
**Figure S9.** Surface morphology of Cu and  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn}@\text{Cu}$ . a-c) Top-view SEM images of Cu after Li deposition with different areal capacities. d-f) Top-view SEM images of  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn}@\text{Cu}$  after Li deposition with different areal capacities.



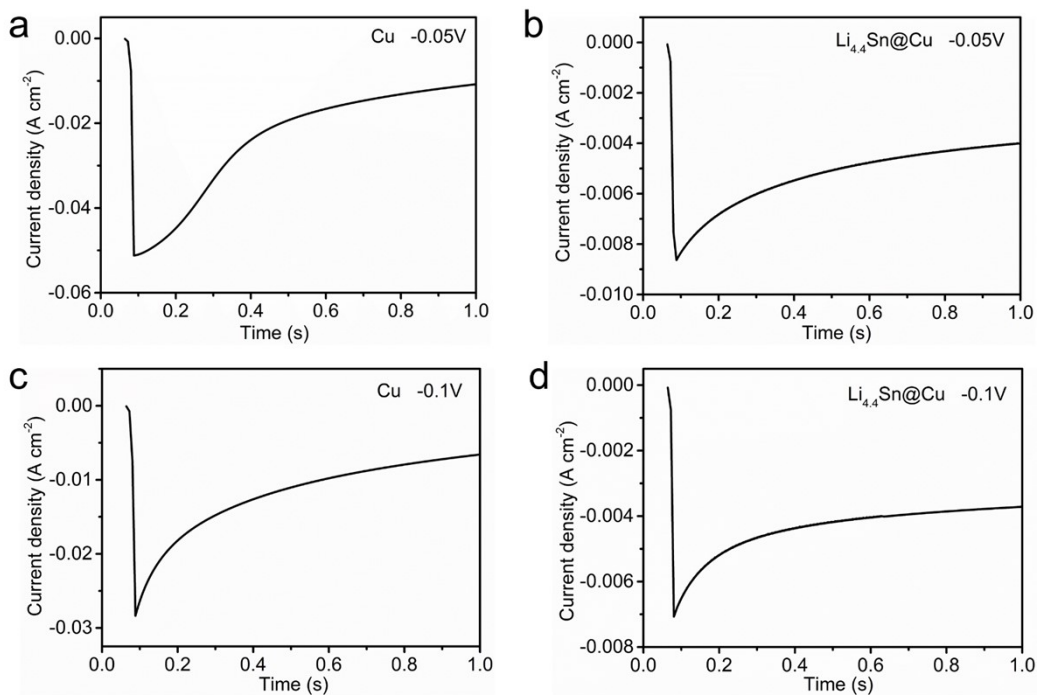
**Figure S10.** Lithium inventories of  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn}@\text{Cu}$  electrodes after the first cycle measured by galvanostatic charging.



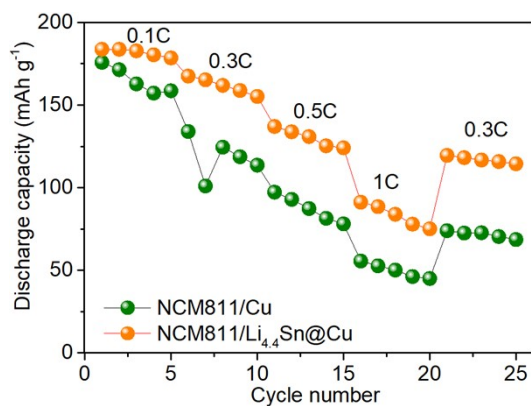
**Figure S11.** EIS analysis of the resistance evolution during cycling in half cells with Cu and  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn}@\text{Cu}$  electrode.



**Figure S12.** C 1s XPS spectra of a) Cu and b)  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn}@\text{Cu}$  electrodes obtained from the cells after 10 cycles.

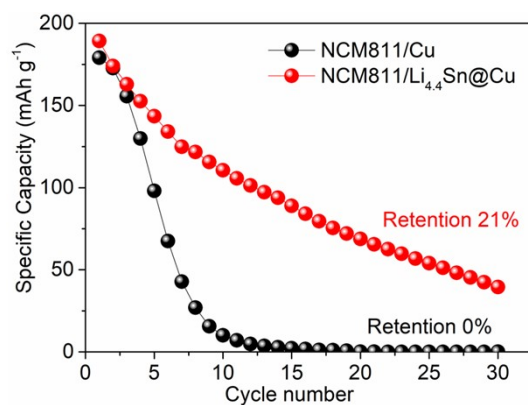


**Figure S13.** Current transients of Li deposition on different substrates at different potential. a, c) Cu. b, d)  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn}@\text{Cu}$ .



**Figure S14.** The rate performance of  $\text{Li}_{4.4}\text{Sn}@\text{Cu}/\text{NCM811}$  and  $\text{Cu}/\text{NCM811}$  full cells.





**Figure S15.** Cycling performance of NCM811/Cu and NCM811/Li<sub>4.4</sub>Sn@Cu cells in carbonate-based electrolyte.

**Table S1.** The comparison on parameters of anode free coin cells in this work and previously reported works.

	Areal capacity (mAh cm <sup>-2</sup> )	Voltage (V)	Current density (mA)	Cycle number	Capacity retention (%)
This work	4	4.3	0.6	50	85.5
[18]	2.6	3.8	0.9	60	70
[22]	2	4.3	0.2	50	40
[27]	2	3.8	0.2	50	65
[29]	0.765	3.8	0.15	50	74
[35]	1.6	4.3	0.2	20	48
[36]	1.5	4	0.5	60	53
[37]	2.2	4.5	0.5	60	55.7

As the data of pouch-cell AFLMB related to current collector modification have rarely been reported, only comparisons of coin-type cell data were performed. It shows that our cell exhibits better overall performance, especially in high-capacity load cathode and cycle life.

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