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## **Supporting Information**

### *Tetra*-butylphosphonium arginine-based ionic liquid-promoted cyclization of 2-aminobenzonitrile with carbon dioxide

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# 1. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR Charts for the catalyst and products







### 2a <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)











### 2d <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)



### **2e** <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)



### **2f** <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)



#### **2g** <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>)



### 2. General procedure for catalyst recovery and NMR Charts for the

#### recovered catalyst.

After accomplishment of the reaction, the autoclave was placed in an ice bath to allow it cooled and the inner gas was vented slowly. Water with a volume of 20 mL was poured into the mixture. The resulting precipitate was filtered and washed with water  $(3\times20 \text{ mL})$  and t-BuOMe  $(3\times20 \text{ ml})$ , respectively. The water layer was recovered. Then the water was removed by evaporation at 50 °C and dried in vacuo for 1 day at 70 °C to give the recovered ionic liquid [TBP][Arg]. <sup>1</sup>H NMR and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra showed that the structure of the IL was not changed after reused for five times.



<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) (recovered after five cycles)

- 2.86



### <sup>13</sup>C NMR (100.6 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) (recovered after five cycles)



# <sup>31</sup>P NMR (162 MHz, DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) (recovered catalyst)



