

## What is With the Climate Blog

<http://www.whatswiththecclimate.org/2009/12/12/win-it-at-oslo-earn-it-in-cop15/>

## Win it at Oslo, Earn it in COP15!

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“President Obama’s hands are not tied by Congress’s lack of action or the grossly inadequate cap-and-trade bills currently under debate. President Obama can lead, rather than follow, by using his power under the Clean Air Act and other laws to achieve deep and rapid greenhouse emissions reductions from major polluters. Obama can use his authority to make a binding agreement in Copenhagen without additional action from Congress. The Constitution and existing domestic environmental laws give President Obama all the power he needs to join with other nations in making a real commitment to solve the climate crisis.” said attorney Kevin Bundy (from the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD)’s Climate Law Institute), the lead author of a report released at a side-event in COP15 on Tuesday, December 8th.

The report, titled “Yes, He Can: President Obama’s Power to Make an International Climate Commitment Without Waiting for Congress”, concludes that the President need not wait for Congress to act before taking strong action to reduce U.S. emissions and that he can SEAL THE DEAL without the 66 votes.

Going to back to the time of Clinton and Gore, the senators had declared the accord “dead on arrival” and this is exactly the fear that, intentionally or unintentionally, is trying to be created. In this light, the report by the CBD is a breakthrough and proves that US can indeed sign a legally binding deal in Copenhagen itself.