

HOLLAND

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During a campaign stop Thursday in Kansas City, Baalmann said he did not think the letter would succeed in drawing supporters away from his campaign.

He said Holland's letter was received by some of his own family members and campaign workers — people who also have contributed financially to the campaign and who would have been listed on the public disclosure.

Asked about Holland's earlier criticism of his fundraising efforts, Baalmann said he now sees an element of hypocrisy in that.

"He's certainly looking for things to talk about," Baalmann said. "But he can do what he wants. I don't care what he does."

Also critical of Holland's effort to infiltrate Baalmann's fundraising base is the campaign manager for R.B. Grisham, one of the candidates Holland dismissed this week when he

declared the race a two-man contest.

Grisham campaign manager Todd Smith said Thursday he believes Holland is feeling "sour grapes" over the fact that he remains far behind political newcomer Baalmann in campaign fundraising.

In the interview earlier this week, Holland also accused Baalmann of trying to "buy" the lieutenant governor's office by amassing the largest campaign fund of any of the Republican candidates.

According to updated disclosures, Baalmann's campaign has raised \$256,000 to Holland's \$109,000 and Grisham's \$95,000.

The founder of a chain of hardware stores in St. Louis, Baalmann says he has donated only \$2,500 to his own campaign but has received substantial support from friends in the business community.

Holland asserts that Baalmann's campaign is being supported by many of the same business and political leaders who earlier this year

fought for state funding to build a new football stadium in St. Louis.

That issue bitterly divided the state because it called for taxpayers throughout Missouri to contribute millions to a development seen as benefitting only the St. Louis area. Holland opposed the measure in the legislature.

In his letter to Baalmann supporters Holland said he had delivered Republicans votes on "two major legislative accomplishments for St. Louis' economic development the past two years."

Holland could not be reached for comment, and his campaign director Thursday was unable to say what pieces of legislation he was referring to in the letter.

"I understand the importance of the St. Louis area to the economic well-being of Missouri," Holland wrote, "and I pledge to continue being a friend to St. Louis when I am lieutenant governor."